



TESTIMONY FOR HB0771

Human Relations - Patterns and Practices of Civil Rights Violations - Remedies

Bill Sponsor: Speaker

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0771 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

There are so many times that we have discovered, through investigative reporting or through oversight entities, a pattern of abuse of groups of individuals based upon their race, color, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender by governmental agencies or persons acting on behalf of a governmental agency. In all of these cases, and unfortunately many that we don't yet know about, we struggle to find appropriate relief for those who were harmed. We also struggle to change cultural biases in various departments and agencies.

What this legislation does is give the Attorney General's Office the authority to investigate these discriminatory patterns and practices and bring civil charges and relief to those who were harmed.

We cannot condone any practice that deprives any resident of their rights.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.