



TESTIMONY FOR SB605

ELECTION LAW – AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION – ALTERATIONS

Bill Sponsor: Senator M. Washington

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Howard County

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck - Co-Facilitator Defend Democracy Team

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting testimony in favor of Senate Bill 0605 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is a 700+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving campaign finance and election integrity.

Maryland should upgrade its automatic voter registration (AVR) system. An upgraded AVR system is the most efficient and secure system for registering eligible voters and updating current voters' registrations. The current system registers fewer voters than it could.

This legislation would streamline MVA registration for unregistered and confirmed citizens. In addition, Upgraded AVR is compatible with both lowering the pre-registration age to 15 and to expanding voter registration in the Department of Corrections.