

Mary Nelson
1465 Blue Ball Rd
Elkton, MD 21921

March 25, 2024

Brian Feldman, Chairman
And Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Co
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SAY NO to HB0333 Election Disinformation and Improper Influence Related to Voting

HB 333 has the potential to infringe on the first amendment rights of citizens to raise questions regarding election processes, or outcomes.

The bill defines "election disinformation" as "INCORRECT OR MISLEADING INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTION PROCEDURES, ELECTION RESULTS, OR VOTING RIGHTS IN THE STATE."

That definition could squash a citizen's right to raise questions about election processes and outcomes and could subject voters to threats and intimidation if they voice their concerns. What one person considers misleading may not be misleading to another. There can be legitimate differences of opinion. Shutting off people's right to voice their opinion is a serious threat to our 1st amendment rights to freedom of speech.

What makes a social media company an expert in election law, processes or outcomes? Where does their political bias get checked at the door when making decisions on whether a post is disinformation? or Misinformation?

A person who objects to non-citizens voting could be labeled as opposing voting rights. A person who questions the vote count or whether a provisional ballot is counted could be said to be spreading disinformation about an election result.

As has been recently acknowledged by the short-lived Department of Homeland Security Disinformation Board of the US Government, FREE speech cannot be defined and put into buckets to be judged.

Please cast an UNFAVORABLE VOTE FOR HB0333.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Nelson