



TESTIMONY FOR HB0333

Election Disinformation on Large Social Media Platforms and Influence Related to Voting

Bill Sponsor: Delegates Rosenberg and Wilkins

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0333 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Social media is a campaign manager's dream. It's cheap and can be targeted, typically against low information and disadvantaged voters. Claims can largely be made without attribution and without liability. Sarcasm is a favorite tool for initiating misinformation.

Our Maryland Board of Elections is being proactive against misinformation. However, current laws don't go far enough. In a January 27, 2024, meeting with the Maryland League of Women Voters, Maryland's State Administrator of Elections voiced his support of HB0333 because it will give his office the ability to go back to voters directly affected by social media disinformation. This law will also allow BOE to get creators of disinformation to be removed from the social media platform.

In addition to helping to get great bills like HB0333 passed, MLC's mission is to inform voters about such legislation and their legislators. We do not want our efforts undone by election disinformation.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.