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**CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0202 – Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification  
Letter of Support

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB0202 – Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled for February 13, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is prohibiting a local board of elections from removing an absentee ballot from a return envelope or ballot/return envelope or counting the ballot unless the return envelope or ballot/return envelope is signed by the voter and, except under certain circumstances, a witness and the local board verifies the voter's signature; and providing that the witness signature requirement does not apply to active duty uniformed services members serving overseas or their spouses or dependents who live overseas.

Maintaining the integrity of elections is of the utmost importance to all our citizens. Cecil County strongly supports this legislation.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee send a favorable report on HB 0202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.H.", is written over a horizontal line.

Danielle Hornberger  
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Gregory", is written over a horizontal line.

Jackie Gregory  
President of County Council