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To: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
From: Executive Committee, Maryland-DC-Delaware Broadcasters Association
Date: February 20, 2020
Re: Senate Bill 781

The Maryland-DC-Delaware Broadcasters Association (“MDCD”) submits this statement regarding Senate Bill 781, “Election Law – Disclosure of Qualifying Paid Digital Communications – Revisions.”

The MDCD appreciates legislative efforts to combat foreign interference in the State’s elections. The MDCD, however, is concerned that SB 781 retains several of the constitutional infirmities that the federal courts have previously identified in the very law SB 781 seeks to amend.

The MDCD hopes to work with lawmakers should SB 781 progress through the Senate in order to ensure that the Bill (1) accurately and clearly accounts for the realities of the marketplace, and (2) does not impose unnecessary or inappropriate burdens on online platforms.

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The MDCD is a voluntary, non-profit trade association that advocates for the interests of its member radio and television stations and, more generally, the interests of broadcasting in Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.