



Maryland Association of Community Services

ph 410-740-5125
ph 888-838-6227
fax 410-740-5124

Board of Directors

Shawn Kros, President
The Arc Northern
Chesapeake Region

Karen Adams-Gilchrist, President Elect
Providence Center

Monica McCall, Past President
Creative Options

Scott Evans, Treasurer
Benedictine Programs and Services

Clarissa Mitchell, Secretary
EPIC

Keith Danos
Jewish Foundation for
Group Homes

John Dumas
Service Coordination, Inc.

Mike Dyer
United Needs and Abilities

Randy Ferguson
The Center for Life Enrichment

David Greenberg
The League

Scott Hollingsworth
Appalachian Crossroads

Doug McQuade
Ardmore Enterprises

Greg Miller
Penn-Mar Human Services

Judi Olinger
Humanim

Daphne Pallozzi
Ardmore Enterprises

Michael Planz
Community Living, Inc.

Matt Rice
Self Advocate

Jonathon Rondeau
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Chrissy Shawver
The Arc Montgomery County

Sequya Tasker
Lt. J.P. Kennedy Institute

Laura Howell,
Executive Director

January 29, 2020

House Ways & Means Committee
HB 142: Election Law - Voting Order Priority - Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance

Submitted by Laura Howell, Executive Director
Position: Support

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 100 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

Though Maryland statute protects the right of people with IDD to vote, that right can become a hollow promise when long lines and/or the physical layout of a particular polling location presents challenges for a person with a mobility impairment—even when the polling place is otherwise ADA compliant. Similarly, a family member or direct support staff who may not have a mobility impairment themselves, but who is providing support to someone with mobility challenges who must accompany the family member or staff to the polling place, may face a similar barrier to voting. The accommodations afforded by this bill would help clear the path of these obstacles and ensure participation in the voting process.

The Supreme Court has recognized the right to vote as a fundamental liberty interest and MACS is in strong support of efforts to remove barriers that impede the free exercise of this right.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.