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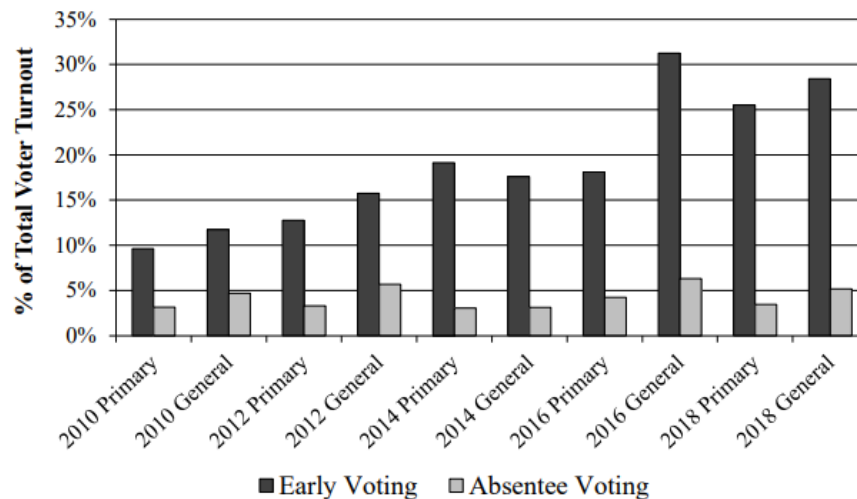
**Testimony in Support of HB1094 – Election Law - Early Voting Centers –  
Hours of Operation**

HB1094 will require Maryland Early Voting Centers to open at 8:00am during non-general elections.

Currently, Early Voting Centers open at 8:00am during general elections, but cannot open earlier than 10:00am for any other election. The 10:00am start time presents a problem for many voters, particularly those who want to vote on their way to work.

Since 2010, voter turnout for primary elections has risen dramatically in Maryland. By opening Early Voting Centers two hours earlier for these elections, we will build on our recent efforts to expand voter access and decrease wait times to vote.

**Maryland Early and Absentee Voting Turnout  
2010-2018**



\*Source: Dept. Legislative Services

As you can see, demand for more ballot access has created a need for extended voting periods. This bill will give voters a far greater opportunity to participate in our democracy.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB1094.