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Subject: Support for HB 1314

To: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Marguerite Woods

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My name is Marguerite Woods. I want to share my voting experience on February 4, 2020 with you. The segregation and discrimination that I face when voting must come to an end.

Please vote in favor of HB1314 because although the ballot marking devices (BMD) have been in use since the 2016 primary, poll workers still don't know how they work. This demonstrates the fallacy that a state can have two voting systems. My experience demonstrates that I am treated as a second-class voter and that my voting system is separate and very unequal.

When I checked in at my polling location, Liberty Elementary School, 3901 Maine Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21207, I had to tell the poll workers that I wanted to vote using the BMD. When I said I needed help finding the machine, I was accompanied by a democrat and a republican because they thought that I wanted them to physically fill out my ballot. I had to explain that I could fill out my ballot myself using the BMD. I had to find the keypad myself because they didn't know where it was. I asked them how to turn on the screen curtain and they thought I was talking about a physical curtain. Once again, I had to figure out how to turn on the screen curtain myself. The most humiliating part of my frustrating voting experience came when I printed my ballot. The staff couldn't find a folder to put it in, so they took me to the scanner, keeping the

ballot in full view of bystanders. Then they couldn't find my registration paper that counted my vote. When I called the next day, the poll judge said they did find my paper and my vote was counted. I have to take her word for it because I have no way of knowing whether my vote counted.

I am a taxpayer and deserve to be treated as any other voter. Surely the state of Maryland can do better than this. I hope you will end voting discrimination on the basis of disability by voting in favor of HB1314.