

To: Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and distinguished members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Please accept this written testimony in **opposition** to SB on **Elections by Mail** as introduced by Senator Kramer

**SB 29 Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Voting by Mail - opposed**

If we have learned nothing from our most recent election, it is that “voting by mail” is an absolute disaster and ripe for opportunities of election fraud and voter fraud.

As a Election Judge, I worked 5 days of the most recent election cycle in November, 2020 (4 days of early voting and election day) for a total of 75 hours. The two polling centers where I worked ran efficiently and we received many compliments from voters. From my observations Maryland does very well in planning and executing the actual voting days. We processed over 11,000 voters during the first four days of Early Voting and another 2100+ voters on Election Day at the voting center where I was assigned.

**However**, the most critical area where our state could do much better is in maintaining an accurate roster of eligible voters. I know from first hand experience that that list is NOT up-to-date and far from accurate. My own son and his wife moved from Maryland 3 years ago, yet they are still listed on the Anne Arundel County roster.

Therefore, to mail an actual ballot to this list is not only very expensive, but is open to **unsecured** ballots floating around for anyone to fraudulently vote. Additionally, voters may be subjected to coercion, intimidation, or simply have their ballot forged. Even more problems would arise as opportunities for ballot harvesting and vote buying would increase. There is absolutely **NO chain of custody with mail-in ballots**.

As we have recently seen in the news, exposing and proving instances of fraud after an election is difficult and leaves the perpetrators without any punishment or accountability. **Why would we want to invite these problems to Maryland?**

To be clear, the procedure of “absentee” ballots that Maryland has used for decades in which a voter who cannot vote “in-person” **REQUESTS** an absentee ballot by signed application works well as those applications can be **verified** prior to sending a ballot. **Verification** is the key word, here!

Even sending **applications** to those **who do not request** them is opening the door to potential misuse. The most obvious danger to mail-in ballots is that they are completed and returned without any oversight or protocols by election officials plus all the reasons stated above.

Sadly, the U.S. Postal system has seen severe delays in processing even regular mail, much less the onslaught of millions of ballots dumped on an already struggling system during a seasonal timeframe. As such, there is no guarantee that ballots will arrive in time. Just this week a state judge in Virginia declared that ballots received after the election were illegal. An often overlooked point is that mail with pre-printed postage is NOT time/date stamped as it is processed through high speed sorting machines. Sometimes, even mail with a regular stamp has no postmark or cancellation stamp. There is no way to verify the actual mailing date as timely.

Thankfully, Maryland was not among the several states making national headlines for the mishandling of mail-in ballots. **Again, why would Maryland want to potentially be the topic of major election scandal the next time around?**

To summarize, the most obvious flaws in mass “vote-by-mail” include delayed results, less secure ballots, higher rejection rate, lost or mis-used ballots, and potential for outright fraud due to being altered, stolen or forged, and lastly, late arrival of ballots by the postal service.

Any type of voter fraud is extremely **dangerous** to our election, BUT most importantly **WE CAN PREVENT this potential for voter and election fraud in future elections.**

**We deserve an election system that is fair, secure, accurate, and timely.**

For all of these reasons please vote **against SB 29** as it will only lead to more **distrust** of our election system, which will only serve to drive voters away from engaging in the voting process. **We need to do everything possible to ensure the integrity of our elections or we will have no Republic left.**

I hope you will take a bit of extra time to read this linked report: <https://report.heritage.org/lm268>

Thank you,  
Respectfully,  
Anne White  
Anne Arundel County