

Satie Ramdat, Student Vote Ambassador Cohort  
Testimony for SB0283  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021  
Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act

Position: Favorable

Hello, my name is Satie Ramdat and I live in Prince George's County, Maryland. I am currently a sophomore at Frostburg State University. There are few reasons I think that the Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act should be passed. I would like to thank Senator Elfreth for introducing the bill. I would also like to thank Chair Pinsky along with the committee for giving me the opportunity to voice my stance on why this issue is important.

First, The Student and Military Empowerment Act is a bill which ensures that colleges across the U.S and military have access to information concerning voting. It will help people learn about how to vote and which steps they should take to ensure that their vote is on time and counted.

I am a first generation college student and November 2020 was my first time voting. When I was voting, I was in Frostburg and was not able to go back home to vote with my family. I was by myself with a few friends and all of us were trying to figure out how exactly we register for voting as well as how to complete voting. I was one of many people that really wanted to vote and did not know exactly how to get the information to do that. What helped my friends and I the most was social media through people sharing dates concerning registration, early voting, etc. There was not much promotion or information on voting that the school provided. The only thing my school did for the students was give us the day off to go and vote.

I think promoting young people and college students to vote is a great thing to get their voices heard and to grow our democracy. I do not think growing democracy or democratic values should be a debate. People should be educated on different political policies that affect our everyday lives in many different ways. More people should be aware of how to vote, so that they

know they have a voice and are able to use it. Thank you for your time.