



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Ways and Means

Testimony on: SB0596 - Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Hours of Operation

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 23, 2021

Bill Contact: Senator Washington

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grassroots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that support and uplift all members of its communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0596 because it will expand opportunities for voting, allowing for stronger participation and representation in our government.

SB0596 will increase poll hours during early voting to 7:00 am to 8:00 pm daily in all elections, including primary elections, instead of 10 am to 8 pm during primary elections and non-presidential elections. Early voting hours will therefore be standardized across the state for all elections and match the poll hours on Election Day, thereby reducing confusion about voting hours and expanding opportunities for everyone to vote.

Primary elections and state and local government elections are every bit as important for Maryland residents as presidential elections, and we must do all we can to make sure as many citizens as possible have access to voting in these elections.

Two hour – or more - waits in line were not uncommon in recent non-presidential elections. The extra three hours per day of early voting just makes sense and will be very helpful in reducing the unacceptably long lines encountered during early voting at many locations.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0596 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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