

BILL: HB0398

BILL TITLE: Time Off for Employee Voting **BILL SPONSOR:** Delegate Palakovich Carr

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

HEARING DATE: January 19, 2021

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0398

Anthony Caruso, Member Represent Maryland

Represent Maryland is an all-volunteer, member and individual donor-funded group of activists and advocates who fight for democracy at the local and state level. We formed in 2015 to fight against the influence of big money in politics and to ensure that everyone can participate in our democratic system of governance, regardless of financial status.

We support Delegate Carr's goal of giving employees time off to vote. This will address one of the barriers that may keep a citizen from voting. We should always strive to improve voter turnout, so by increasing accessibility to voting we expect voter turnout to increase as well.

Furthermore, all businesses who consider themselves "good corporate citizens" should be eager to give employees time off to vote, in order to support and encourage their civic participation. Please help increase voting accessibility by finding HB0398 favorable.

Sincerely, Anthony Caruso, Member Represent Maryland Maryland Voter-LD6

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland.

Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation.

Learn more about our work at www.RepresentMaryland.org