



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill – 423
Election Law – Voting Systems – Accessibility for Voters With Disabilities
Ways and Means Committee
February 2, 2021

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

House Bill 423 establishes voting requirements to ensure that voters with disabilities are provided access to voting that is equivalent to access afforded voters without disabilities. Each voter is required to use a ballot marking device that is accessible to voters with disabilities to vote at an early voting center or an Election Day polling place. In addition, a ballot cast by a voter with a disability may not be set apart or distinguishable, in size and form, from a ballot cast by a voter without a disability.

The JCRC has a long history of prioritizing the needs and rights of people with disabilities. Our agency is committed to advancing and supporting policy measures to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 423.