



Get Money Out – Maryland

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**STATEMENT TO THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 355 – REGISTERED VOTER LIST SECURITY AND
ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PETITIONS**

January 26, 2021

Get Money Out (GMOM) is an all-volunteer organization established eight years ago. We want all citizens to have equal access to the ballot and an equal say in governance. Through our grassroots actions, we have signed up over 9,000 supporters.

We support House Bill 355, which aims to assure the security of petitions submitted to the Board of Elections. In response to the pandemic the State Board of Elections has already taken measures to allow electronic signatures to be submitted on petitions, but their action was temporary. As with many provisions adopted for the pandemic, the public will expect continued use of electronic communications in order to improve access to the political process for citizens. This bill will codify and improve the security of that process on a continuing basis. The bill contains provisions to assure that signatures are valid and that those collecting petitions take reasonable measures to protect the data prior to its being submitted to the Board of Elections. The language has been carefully vetted to optimize improved access for the public, verifiability, and security. We urge a favorable report.