



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 156 - Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act

Ways and Means Committee

January 26, 2021

Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 156 - Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act**. I would like to thank Delegate Luedtke for sponsoring this legislation.

House Bill 156 would allow active-duty military members to electronically register to vote and request an absentee ballot, as well as make public colleges and universities develop plans to encourage students to vote. We have seen voting rights come under attack recently, and even attempts by some members of Congress to disenfranchise voters by rejecting their state's chosen Presidential electors. We **need** to encourage more people to participate in our Democracy.

House Bill 156 would strengthen our Democratic Process by simply making it easier for active-duty military and students to vote and has bi-partisan support. For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 156. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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