

Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB1192 - Signature Verification of Absentee Ballots

Greg Decker - Testimony in favor of HB1192

This last election cycle, we saw the results of a lack of confidence in the integrity of our elections. If our democracy is going to survive, we must have confidence in our election results.

Other bills currently under consideration in this body propose to send out blank ballots to everyone listed on the voter rolls. Given the chronic state of errors in the voter rolls, I believe that this is a very bad idea.

However, if this is going to be the process going forward then we must put in place some way to attempt to verify that those ballots are filled out by a valid voter.

Other states which have been mailing out ballots have adopted a strict regime of validating the signatures on those ballots in order to insure that those blank ballots are submitted by a valid voter.

Maryland voters deserve to have confidence in our election system by knowing that there are safeguards in place to prevent the submission of fraudulent ballots, especially if we are planning to adopt the practice of sending out blank ballots to everyone on the voter rolls.

I implore you to institute these safeguards by giving HB1192 a favorable report.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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