



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0745  
ELECTION LAW – EARLY VOTING CENTERS – NUMBER REQUIRED**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Luedtke

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0745 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill would adjust the number of Early Voting Centers that would be required in any given county. The purpose is to make more available, particularly in counties with less than 125,000 people and those with more than 400,000 people. Instead of one Early Voting Center, counties with less than 125,000 people would have three and for counties of more than 400,000 people, they would go from eleven to thirteen.

Early Voting makes so much more sense these days. It is obviously more flexible than Election Day voting, since there are more days available to vote. It also generally means that the wait time is less. For counties that are more rural, having only one Early Voting Center means that people have to drive a long way to get to one, and for counties that are urban, the lines will be longer when there are fewer voting centers.

So, it makes sense that we allow for more voting centers. This allows more people to participate, which is what we should always be working towards.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.