



TESTIMONY FOR HB1047 MAIL-IN VOTING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

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 HB1066 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.

Our members support the enhancements that are made to the mail-in voting process through this bill. The number of drop-boxes would be established through an equitable process that the State Board of Elections creates, whereas the Local Board of Elections will determine the placement. The state would cover 50% of the cost, which would allow for rural locations to afford more drop boxes, and ensure that they are placed appropriately throughout the locality.

For voters, there will be much more information available regarding the status of the ballot. Everyone who votes by mail worries about getting their ballot – even knowing when it was mailed, the hard part is knowing when it should be expected and whether it is lost in the mail. Once the ballot is completed and returned, the new worry is whether you did something wrong and it will be rejected. Knowing this information, and being able to get a text message, or an email, is a giant step forward in making the process more user-friendly.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.