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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 1140 – ELECTION LAW–VOTER REGISTRATION LIST
– RIGHT TO NONDISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

March 9, 2021

Get Money Out (GMOM) is an all-volunteer organization that was established just over eight years ago. We now have signed up more than 9,000 citizen supporters. We work in Maryland towards the goal that all citizens should have equal access to the ballot and an equal say in governance.

We believe that equal say in governance includes the right to decide how one's own data is shared.

We support **HB 1140** because it seeks to give Maryland voters enhanced control over their own data. The bill allows "an individual to opt out of disclosure of personal information in the individual's voter registration record to any person other than an employee or a vendor of the State Board or a local board." Thus, the board of elections would continue to have access to the information it requires while permitting an individual the right to prohibit access to that information by external parties.

According to the bill, "The State Board may enter into agreements with other states to exchange any data that the State Administrator determines is relevant to maintaining accurate voter registration lists."

Therefore, the State Board retains their ability to serve the Maryland public for elections. While candidate campaigns and other entities might like to be able to contact any voter, they might find that giving voters the option to deny contact may lead to more productive use of campaign resources since voters who opt out could be less likely to respond to their campaigns.

We hope the **HB 1140** gets a favorable response.