



February 23, 2021

Honorable Delegate Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1047 – Mail-In Voting Enhancement Act

Dear Chair Anne R. Kaiser and House Ways and Means Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill **1047** entitled Mail-In Voting Enhancement Act. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

This past presidential election, we saw more people submit their ballots by mail due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many voters felt uncertain about mailing in their ballots due to rumors circulating about the safety and integrity of ballot dropboxes in various locations.

This bill addresses such concerns during future elections by making sure that:

- ballots are collected daily from the dropboxes
- the dropboxes are under security surveillance around the clock, and
- that they are completely safe for citizens to cast their vote.

House Bill 1047 will also ensure that a reasonable number of drop boxes are accessible at strategic locations around each county for at least 30 days prior to an election day. This bill is a critical step in making sure the fundamental right of voting is accessible to all eligible residents across the state of Maryland.

These dropboxes will be compliant with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act and will be accessible to communities with diverse demographics. This is especially important as voter suppression efforts consistently impact communities of color across the country. **We support this bill because it simplifies the democratic right of voting, and we encourage participation in the voter process. Therefore, we respectfully urge your vote in favor of it.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huzzaifa Muhammad

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