

The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chairman
and Members of the
Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: HB 156 – Student & Military Voter Empowerment – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Kaiser and Members of the Committee.

I oppose HB 156. Colleges and Universities already have voter registration links on their portals for students to sign up for classes. There are ample opportunities for “Get out the Vote” efforts. HB 156 is unnecessary and it will be expensive to have a Voter Coordinator at every campus.

Only “recognized” groups will be allowed to participate. Colleges and Universities routinely do not recognize conservative or Republican or Pro-Life groups and discriminate against conservative speakers and events. This bill will allow “recognized” campus groups –usually liberal to leftist and Democrats an increasingly unfair advantage. Freedom of speech is being restricted on college campuses in the name removing mis-information or dis-information. To disagree with the far-left view of an issue is demonized as “hate speech”. We are seeing calls to revoke the earned degree of a graduate if they stand up for or challenge the results of any election or voice opinions not politically-correct by leftist views. Universities ought to be bastions of free speech not censorship.

All students’ rights should be respected. All campus groups should be treated equally. HB 156 does nothing to protect the rights of free expression.

Please give HB 156 an Unfavorable Report.

Sincerely,
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