



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - Senate Bill 283 - Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 4, 2021

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 283 - Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act**. I would like to thank Senator Elfreth for sponsoring this legislation.

Senate Bill 283 would allow active-duty military members to electronically register to vote and request an absentee ballot, as well as make public colleges and universities develop plans to encourage students to vote. We have seen voting rights come under attack recently, and even attempts by some members of Congress to disenfranchise voters by rejecting their state's chosen Presidential electors. We **need** to encourage more people to participate in our Democracy.

This legislation would strengthen our Democratic Process by simply making it easier for active-duty military and students to vote, and has bi-partisan support. For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 283. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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