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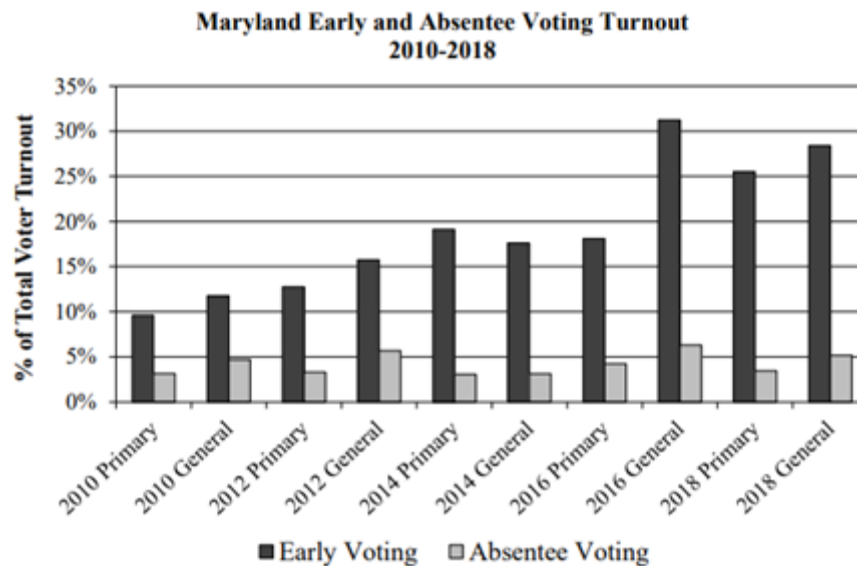
THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB206 – Election Law - Early Voting Centers –
Hours of Operation**

HB 206 will require Maryland Early Voting Centers to open at 8:00am during non-general elections.

Currently, Early Voting Centers open at 8:00am during presidential general elections, but cannot open earlier than 10:00am for any other election. The 10:00am start time presents a problem for many voters, particularly those who want to vote on their way to work.

As you can see in the chart below, voter turnout for primary elections has risen dramatically in Maryland since 2010. By opening Early Voting Centers two hours earlier for these elections, we will build on our recent efforts to expand voter access and decrease wait times to vote.



This bill is a simple fix that will permanently increase the opportunity for all Marylanders to participate in our democracy.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 206.