



MARYLAND FEDERATION  
*of*  
Republican Women

The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chairman, and Members, Ways and Means

Re: HB1192 - SUPPORT

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the more than 1300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women, representing citizens from across Maryland, I am writing to ask you for a Favorable Report on HB1192. At another bill hearing earlier this year, I was astounded to learn that the State Board of Elections does not verify signatures on Absentee Ballots because it is not required by law. HB1192 will remedy this situation.

When a voter votes at the polls, he or she is required to provide the very minimum of proof of identity by stating their name, address, and day and month of birth. Currently there is no verification that the individual casting an absentee ballot is indeed the registered voter. HB1192 will require the local Boards of Election to verify that the signature on the Absentee Ballot matches the signature on file of the registered voter. And it insures that the cost of the equipment to conduct these verifications is not passed onto the already financially burdened local boards by requiring that the State Board fund the acquisition of this equipment.

Verification of signature on an Absentee Ballot will increase the confidence of the electorate that all absentee ballots are truly being cast by the registered voter who requested the ballot.

In conclusion, the members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly support a Favorable Report for HB1192,

Thank you,

*Diana D Waterman*

Diana Waterman  
President, Maryland Federation of Republican Women  
560 Sparks Mill Road  
Centreville, MD 21617  
410-490-0227  
[diana@watermanrealty.com](mailto:diana@watermanrealty.com)

