



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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**Senate Bill 532
In Opposition Of
Elections Law –Polling Places –Proof of Identity
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

Dear Honorable Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair, Honorable Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the Committee, the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) opposes HB 532 Elections Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity.

This bill which on its surface would appear to be a reasonable request to provide identification at a polling place or early voting center is an unreasonable request for older citizens. Many senior citizens no longer have a driver's license; and many are no longer living in their homes and may not have access to other forms of Identification, as would be required by this bill.

AARP is also in opposition to bills such as this stating that, "the older you get the more likely you won't have an ID". They found that one in five citizens over the age of 65 lack a current government issued photo ID. Disenfranchising a quarter of the senior population over 65 is much more than collateral damage. It is the purposeful silencing of their voices. We should make voting easier for seniors (and all citizens), not more cumbersome.

In addition, this bill and other bills related to voting seem to be trying to resolve a problem that does not exist in Maryland. Currently, if "The voter's identity is challenged the voter will be asked to show ID". Maryland is noted for its fair and honest elections. We can be proud of the way we conduct our elections and there is no need for confusion from bills such as these.

On behalf of the almost 13,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge an unfavorable report on SB 532. MRSPA will continue to monitor other bills related to our elections and encourage you to oppose any attempt to silence or confuse senior voters.

Sincerely,

George D. Denny, Jr.
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide