

**SB532VoterIDTestimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2021

**Testimony in Support of SB 532 – Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environment Committee,

Senate Bill 532 is common sense legislation that would require voter ID, but expands the types of identification that can be used.

Opposition to voter ID is largely based on the fact that some individuals do not possess a government-issued ID. Senate bill 532 would expand the definition of voter ID to include a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or any other government document; a voter notification card; or the specimen ballot mailed to the voter by a local board,

There are now 35 states that request or require ID to vote<sup>i</sup>. In general, it is a good idea to verify a voter's identity in order to ensure a one-person-per-person system. There have been many cases in which people registered in multiple states vote multiple times, cases in which deceased voter cast a ballot, or is a non-citizen. Senate Bill 838 will give voters the confidence that all who vote do so legally.

I respectfully request a favorable on Senate Bill 532.

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<sup>i</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. *Voter ID Laws*. 2022. [Voter ID Laws \(ncsl.org\)](https://www.ncsl.org/voter-id-laws)

**SB 532\_SP\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Reichert-Price

Position: FAV

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
and Members of The Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 532- Election Law-Polling Places- Proof of Identity- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of The Committee,

It is critical that you support the preservation of voter integrity by supporting the requirement of voter ID. For obvious reasons, the lack of presentation of ID at the time of voting, encourages fraudulent activity and questionable election results.

Please vote for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 5332- Election Law- Polling Places-Proof of Identity.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price  
221 Miller Street  
Westernport, MD

# **SB 532 - Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of**

Uploaded by: Aleksandra Petrovic

Position: UNF

February 23, 2022

**Testimony on SB 532**  
**Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**Position: Unfavorable**

Common Cause Maryland opposes SB 532, which would require proof of identity in order to vote and a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide proof of identity as well as prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

Voting is celebrated as the most fundamental form of civic participation in a democracy, a means by which all voices are counted on an equal basis. Restrictive identification requirements like a photo ID undermine this goal because it prevents eligible voters from participating, imposes enormous and unjustified costs on states, and does not achieve the goals they claim to work towards.

Studies show that those without ID are disproportionately likely to be Black, Latino, low-income voters, young adults, senior citizens, people with disabilities, be part of the LGBTQ+ community. For many of these eligible persons, it is no simple matter to obtain the necessary ID — the hurdles involved can make doing so difficult, and in some cases, impossible. Having a certified copy of one's birth certificate is a prerequisite to obtaining identification from a DMV. However, many people do not have their birth certificate, have lost it, or never had one in the first place. Given that a driver's license is the most typical form of ID required to vote, it stands to reason that citizen without identification do not necessarily have an easy way to physically get to the offices they need to go to in order to get ID. And even if travel can be arranged, there are limited hours of service many DMVs provide, combined with long waits at the DMV, creating a third barrier for obtaining identification.

The risk of disenfranchisement is far greater than the evidence of voter fraud in Maryland. Millions of citizens residing in states with these restrictive laws do not currently possess the requisite photo ID needed to vote. And while there is anecdotal evidence of voter fraud, there has never been proof that fraud is occurring on a scale that would necessitate this type of measure – or outweigh its risks.

SB 532 would roll back basic protections that allow all registered voters to engage in our democratic process.

We urge an unfavorable report.

**SB0532\_Chris\_Apple\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher Apple

Position: UNF

TESTIMONY OPPOSING BILL SB0532 - UNFAVORABLE  
Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity

TO: Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and  
members of the Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Chris Apple  
7001 Cradlerock Farm Court  
Columbia, MD 21045  
District 13

Feb 23, 2022

In 2020 I knocked on doors for a Baltimore City Council candidate. We found that many residents, especially older people, do not check state websites or the news before heading out to vote. They simply go to the same place they've voted for decades. Many were unaware their regular polling places were closed due to COVID-19. Many do not have, or are unable to use, technology that would inform them of any new ID requirements. If this law is enacted, I think confusion would reign, forcing many legitimate voters to cast provisional ballots. Once that happens, I am gravely concerned that all those provisional ballots will later be misattributed to "evidence" of mass voter fraud.

Voter ID laws deprive many Americans of the right to vote, and have disparate impact on poor voters, disabled voters, and minorities.<sup>1</sup> Voter ID laws, while perhaps well-intentioned, have unfortunately become barriers to democracy that harm vulnerable classes of people. Many poorer voters do not have the resources to obtain identification; even though the ID itself is free, it requires time and money to go to a place where IDs are issued. Even though the proposed law would accept many forms of ID, it would still present a barrier to some. For example, not everyone has a utility bill or bank account in their name. They may live in a household where someone else manages the finances.

The good news is our elections are *already* secure. Maryland has very few known cases of voter fraud.<sup>2 3</sup> One website found less than one instance of voter fraud *per year* in Maryland.<sup>4</sup>

This bill would greatly harm voting rights in Maryland, and would not make our elections any more secure than they already are. I respectfully urge the committee to oppose it.

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<sup>1</sup> American Civil Liberties Union. *Oppose Voter ID Legislation - Fact Sheet*.  
<https://www.aclu.org/other/oppose-voter-id-legislation-fact-sheet>

<sup>2</sup> Amara, Kate. "Expert: Maryland hasn't had widespread fraud with in-person or mail-in voting."  
<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/expert-says-no-widespread-voting-fraud-in-maryland/34226640#>

<sup>3</sup> Tan, Rebecca. "Md. elections officials say video's allegation of ballot fraud is untrue. But it's already gone viral."  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/ballot-fraud-denied-montgomery-county/2020/10/21/aee4de64-13dd-11eb-bc10-40b25382f1be\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/ballot-fraud-denied-montgomery-county/2020/10/21/aee4de64-13dd-11eb-bc10-40b25382f1be_story.html)

<sup>4</sup> Heritage Foundation. *Election Fraud Cases*. <https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud/search?state=MD>



**2022-02-23 SB 532 (Oppose).pdf**

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: UNF

**BRIAN E. FROSH**  
*Attorney General*



**ELIZABETH F. HARRIS**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**CAROLYN QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 23, 2022

**TO:** The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** SB 532 – Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity – **Oppose**

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Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, we write to urge your unfavorable report on Senate Bill 532. This bill would impose identification (“ID”) requirements for voters at polling places. In order to vote, voters would be required to produce a government-issued photo ID; a recent utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any other government document showing the voter’s current address; a voter notification card; or the specimen ballot sent in advance of the election.

This bill presents a solution in search of a problem. There is no evidence that in-person voter fraud via impersonating someone else takes place at any level that would justify the inevitable disenfranchisement that the new requirements of this bill would result in. While this is superior to a strict voter ID bill, it still requires voters to come to polling places with independent verification of identity. Without question some voters will forget or will be unaware of this requirement. They may then decline to vote provisionally, or may fail to take the steps needed (such as producing the missing ID at the board of elections immediately after the election) to have their provisional ballot counted.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges an unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 532.

cc: Committee Members

# **SB 532 - Oppose - Election Law – Polling Places –**

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: UNF



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**SB 532: Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity**

**February 23, 2022**

**Position: Oppose**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes SB 532 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

**WHAT** does this legislation do:

- SB 532 would require that an individual seeking to vote must present government-issued identification and a second form of government documentation that demonstrates the voter's name and address.

**WHY** is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely to not have government-issued photo identification.
- The required provision of multiple government documents at the polling place is unnecessarily burdensome on voters with developmental disabilities.

SB 532 would be a step in the wrong direction for ensuring that voters with developmental disabilities have access to, and can effectively participate in, the electoral process. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes SB 532.**

Contact: Zach Hands, Communications and Legislative Liaison, [zhands.mddc@gmail.com](mailto:zhands.mddc@gmail.com)

**SB 532 DRM .pdf**

Uploaded by: Samuela Ansah

Position: UNF

**EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE****February 22, 2022****SB 532 – Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity****Position: OPPOSE**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to increase opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities to be part of their communities through voting by advocating for equal and equitable access to the ballot.

DRM opposes SB 532 which will require an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present certain proof of identification such as a government-issued identification card. Voting is a fundamental right guaranteed to every citizen of the United States, however historically, certain groups have been excluded and disenfranchised from voting through a series of laws, regulations and practices such as voter identification laws. Voters of color, women and voters with disabilities particularly have had their right to vote threatened, removed, or unrealized due to legislation such as SB 532 that place excessive requirements on the voter to prove their identity prior to casting a ballot.

Voters with disabilities will bear an undue and unfair burden that threatens their access to voting if voter identification laws are enacted in Maryland. People with disabilities are twice as likely to not have a state issued identification compared to their peers<sup>1</sup>. It is difficult for people with disabilities to obtain identification due to barriers to transportation, the financial costs to replace or obtain new identification, in addition to navigating the complex system to replace or obtain identification. It can be difficult to obtain those documents for those under the care of families, loved ones, those in facilities or receiving hired care who would have to coordinate to obtain their loved ones identification. Additionally, if a voter is registered to vote, their identity has already been verified. As such, requiring identification at the polling location is extraneous and unnecessary.

Currently, voters with disabilities already face numerous barriers to access the ballot such as inaccessible polling locations, drop boxes, untrained election judges, long voting lines, and much more. Requiring identification once a voter reaches a polling location is just an extra barrier that can discourage voters with disabilities from participating the electoral process, where their voice is already often stifled and unheard.

For these reasons DRM urges an unfavorable report on **SB 532**.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.md-council.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Voting-Fact-Sheet.pdf>



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**MAP - Unfavorable - SB 532 - Voter ID.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stacey Jefferson

Position: UNF





## Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action  
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

Welfare Advocates

## Marylanders Against Poverty

Julia Gross, Co-Chair

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Kali Schumitz, Co-Chair

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## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 532

### Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity

#### Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 23, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly opposes SB 532**, which would require individuals voting to present proof of identity or to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide proof of identity.

**SB 532 is unnecessary.** SB 532 is a solution to a non-existent problem. The most comprehensive national study on instances of voter fraud found there were only 2,068 alleged election-fraud cases since 2000 – and only ten of these cases were in-person voter fraud. The majority of the fraud cases were related to absentee ballots and registration errors – things that would not be addressed by voter ID laws. Of the 2,068 cases, only two of the alleged cases were in Maryland and neither was in-person voter fraud.<sup>1</sup>

**SB 532 will disproportionately affect communities of color, women, and seniors.** A study out of Harvard and Tufts Universities found that Black voters are still more likely to lack adequate identification to vote under voter ID laws, concluding these laws clearly create a racial disparity on voting rights.<sup>2</sup> This complements the study conducted by the Brennan Center which found that 11% of voting-age United States citizens do not have current and valid photo ID and that the percentage was even higher for low-income individuals (15%), minorities (25%), and the elderly (18%).<sup>3</sup> Another recent study conducted after the proliferation of voter ID laws in other states demonstrated that voter ID laws depresses Latino turnout by 9.3 points, Black and African American turnout by 8.6 points, and Asian American turnout by 12.5 points.<sup>4</sup> To quote the study, “we find that voter identification laws do, in fact, substantially alter the makeup of who votes and ultimately do skew democracy in favor of whites [...] Voter ID laws may represent one of the Nation’s most important civil rights issues.”<sup>5</sup>

**SB 532 will disenfranchise individuals experiencing homelessness.** Keeping personal identification safe and secure without stable housing is nearly impossible; people often become the victims of theft or their documents deteriorate when exposed to the elements. Institutions such as hospitals, jails, and shelters often discard all of an individual’s belongings – including identifying documentation. A person leaving a domestic violence situation may not be able to retrieve important documents. Many individuals living in poverty – and especially those experiencing homelessness – often do not have such identifying documents. Ultimately, SB 532 would create significant barriers to voting - especially for the most vulnerable Marylanders.

**SB 532 is costly.** In order to inform voters of the changes in required documentation needed to vote, past fiscal notes indicates it would cost upwards of \$500,000 just for voter outreach for one year. That does not include the additional provisional ballots that would need to be printed, or the need to hire additional election judges in order to properly implement the voter identification requirement in populated jurisdictions. Moreover, most of the states with voter ID laws are facing expensive legal challenges, and through litigation several state laws have been overturned.<sup>6</sup> In states who used

the referendum process to enact voter ID, hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent in the campaigns for and against the measure. Inserting an expensive new voting requirement decided by referendum - when there is no research to indicate widespread in-person voter fraud exists - is a grossly inefficient use of State resources.

**SB 532 creates an excessive – and unwarranted – barrier to the constitutional right to vote.** Marylanders living in or near poverty are already economically disenfranchised, and SB 532 will generate voter disenfranchisement for Marylanders who lack proper identification and the means to obtain required documentation for voting. The right to vote is central to our democracy; therefore, it must be protected. Any initiative that might disenfranchise eligible voters must meet the highest burden of proof. This bill cannot meet that burden.

**MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report for SB 532.**

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***Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP)*** is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

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<sup>1</sup> Khan & Carson. (2012). Comprehensive Database of U.S. Voter Fraud Uncovers No Evidence That Photo Id Is Needed. “Who Can Vote? Project.” News21. Retrieved from <http://votingrights.news21.com/article/election-fraud/>

<sup>2</sup> A Dead Simple Algorithm Reveals the True Toll of Voter ID Laws. January 2018. <https://www.wired.com/story/voter-id-law-algorithm/>

<sup>3</sup> Brennan Center for Justice. (2006). “Citizens Without Proof”. Retrieved from <http://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/citizens-without-proof>

<sup>4</sup> Hajnal, Z., Lajevardi, N., and Nielson, L. (2016). *Voter Identification Laws and the Suppression of Minority Votes*. University of California at San Diego. <http://pages.ucsd.edu/~zhajnal/page5/documents/voterIDhajnaletal.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. (2014, May). *Voter ID in the Courts: An Introduction to legal challenges to voter ID laws*. [http://www.ncsl.org/documents/legismgt/elect/Voter\\_ID\\_Courts\\_May2014.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/documents/legismgt/elect/Voter_ID_Courts_May2014.pdf)

**SB532.ElectionsID.22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Virginia Crespo

Position: UNF



## Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)  
[www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org)

### **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