

REPRESENT MARYLAND

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DEMOCRACY

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BILL: HB0554

BILL TITLE: Election Law – Petitions – Signatures

BILL SPONSOR: Delegate Rosenberg

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: February 15, 2022

Testimony for HB0554

Petitioning our government is one of the oldest rights in America. When it was conceived the world was a different place with a much smaller population; only land-owning white-men were allowed to vote or hold office and there was no digital technology. Those petitioning for something knew the people they were asking to sign on, probably.

Petitioning in our modern world shouldn't be as difficult as it is. The board of elections should operate in an affirmative way, i.e. give signers the benefit of the doubt, rather than an adversarial way, looking for reasons to invalidate signatures. The everyday citizen probably doesn't remember exactly how they registered to vote. Using a nick-name and/or omitting a middle name are common and understandable acts, not malicious mistakes. Voters should not be punished for simple omissions by having their right to participate removed. Common sense should prevail.

This bill is simple, logical, and beneficial to the people of Maryland. Please find it favorable and send it to the House floor.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-LD07

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at www.RepresentMaryland.org

Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer