

March 3, 2023

**Testimony on SB 860
State Board of Elections - Procurement Oversight
Education, Energy, and the Environment**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of SB 860, which would require the Administrator of the State Board of Elections (SBE) to disclose all proposed contracts to the SBE Board, including draft Requests for Proposal (RFPs).

There is growing frustration by citizens over the role that special interests are playing within our government. Particularly in situations where it can appear that there is a conflict of interest, the state does not have unlimited ability to fight back against the surging tide of special interest money. SB 860 takes steps to address this issue by requiring the SBE Board to debate and vote on contracts over \$200,000 prior to their submission to the Board of Public Works.

SB 860 would protect and advance the values of transparency within our government. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on the bill.