

**Dr. Hillary Ganek**  
**Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 605**  
**Hearing Date: March 14, 2023**  
**Maryland Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee**

Chair Feldman and members of the committee,

For the record, I am Dr. Hillary Ganek, and I vote in President Ferguson's own District 46. I am delighted to be able to speak remotely in support of Senate Bill 605 from here in Toronto today.

I moved here in 2012 to pursue my PhD in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Toronto. While here, I met my husband and last May, I gave birth to our first child. My parents still live in Bethesda, where I grew up but, due to COVID and my pregnancy, we have not been back in over three years. I am very much looking forward to sharing my home town with my son and introducing my community there to him.

Although I've been in Canada for over a decade, I am a Marylander. Having a voice in the ongoings of the country and our state is extremely important to me. I see it as a reflection of myself. Of the many issues considered by this assembly, education and healthcare are my biggest priorities. Regrettably, in the last few years I have had to divorce myself from state level politics because being denied a voice during these crucial Maryland elections is too much of a disappointment.

I have voted in primary, midterm, and general elections from Canada for many years. Receiving and completing my ballot is a point of pride and I am always sure to tell friends and family in Canada, the US, and elsewhere that I have voted. Unfortunately, as a Marylander abroad I receive a Federal-only ballot. Knowing that I am being blocked from participating in the ongoings of my own state makes me feel cut-off from the place that I still call home. I would love to have the opportunity to vote at the state and local levels, where the laws that truly govern day-to-day life are enacted.

Today, I am here in support of Senate Bill 605 because there is a light at the end of the tunnel for me as a Marylander and as a US citizen living abroad. I respectfully request this committee vote in favor of SB 605 so that I can finally resume having an equal voice in our state and local government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hillary Ganek, PhD  
Baltimore City Voter (District 46) in Toronto, Canada