

**SB 605 Election Law - Citizens Who Live Overseas - Right to Vote
Testimony in Favor: Michelle Taube**

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Hearing: March 14, 2023

Dear Committee Chair Feldman and distinguished Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Michelle Taube. I am a Montgomery County District 16 voter. In 2007, I moved to Copenhagen, Denmark to take a job at the National Museum of Denmark.

My family moved to Bethesda right before I started high school and my mother still lives there. I moved back to the area after college. I have also lived in Baltimore, and I taught in Montgomery and Frederick County public schools.

Although I have lived abroad for over 15 years now, I still travel back to Maryland at least once every year to visit family and friends. I keep up to date with news in the US and specifically in Maryland by reading and listening to online news sources, including the Washington Post and Bethesda Magazine.

I vote in every election. My friends in Denmark who vote in states as disparate as California, Mississippi, Oregon, and Montana can vote for every race on the ballot. It is important to me to also receive the full ballot because state and local issues affect my family and friends who live, work, and go to school in Maryland. Some of the issues also affect me, even though I do not live there currently. In the age of the internet, it is possible to be an informed voter, even while living across the ocean.

The last 15 years have gone by in the blink of an eye. Just because I moved abroad to take a job in my field does not mean that I feel like less of an American or a Marylander. In fact, living in another country and speaking another language makes it more important to exercise my rights and responsibilities as an American. Senate bill 605 would allow me to vote like any other Marylander.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I hope that the committee gives this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely yours,
Michelle Taube

Montgomery County District 16 voter in Denmark