

# **HB 542 FAVORABLE Elizabeth Landry.pdf**

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Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**  
**HB 542 - Election Law - Citizens Who Live Overseas - Right to Vote**

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**POSITION:** Favorable

**BY:** Elizabeth Landry

**HEARING DATE:** February 14, 2023

Committee Chair Atterbeary and Distinguished Committee members,

My name is Elizabeth Landry. Thank you for allowing me to share my story with you today. I am here in support of HB 542. I live abroad in Malmö, Sweden, and I vote in Frederick, Maryland.

I was born and raised in Salisbury, and received my Nursing degree from Salisbury University. Some years later, love took me to Frederick. I've worked in Maryland and DC as a Critical Care Registered Nurse until injuries forced me away from bedside care. In 2018, my partner and I made the leap and moved abroad to Sweden for their work.

As it turns out, there are many Americans abroad, and I found a home in making sure they knew how to vote in our elections back home. In the four years since our move, I have learned many things, including an entirely new language and culture, and that I took my vote in Maryland elections for granted.

When I received my 2020 ballot, some of the races I was used to voting for were not there. No Board of Education, no statewide or county initiatives. I asked why this was, and was distressed to learn that many Maryland voters abroad can only vote in Federal offices. In 2022, I was only more devastated to not be able to vote for offices such as Governor or County Executive.

While in Sweden, I am disenfranchised as a Marylander and US citizen to fully vote as I did while living in Frederick. Important decisions are made at the State and Local levels on issues I care deeply about - healthcare, education, affordable housing, and more. Please vote YES for HB 542, so that my voice as a US citizen in our government is the same whether I live around the corner or across an ocean. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Landry, BSN, RN

**RESIDES IN:** Malmö, Sweden

**VOTES IN:** Frederick County Voter (District 3)

# **HB 542 FAV Jarryd Rauch.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jarryd Rauch

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**  
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**POSITION: Favorable**

**BY: Jarryd Rauch**

**HEARING DATE: February 14, 2023**

Committee Chair Atterbeary and Distinguished Committee members,

My name is Jarryd Rauch, and I live in New York City. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

I am the Executive Director of Democrats Abroad, and prior to that worked with the DNC Association of State Democratic Committees liaising for the Eastern Region. Partisan politics aside, I am intimately familiar with how dozens of states manage and facilitate the voting process for their uniformed and overseas civilian voters. To myself and all involved in the electoral process, voters being out of sight should not mean they are out of mind, or in this case, excluded from fully exercising their civic duty to vote. Personally and professionally, I support House Bill 542.

While our organization is partisan, we facilitate the nonpartisan voter registration and ballot request website, [VoteFromAbroad.org](http://VoteFromAbroad.org) to ensure every American abroad can register to vote, request their absentee ballot, and get assistance they may need doing so. Much of our voter registration outreach is nonpartisan to reach as many voters as humanly possible, because every single voter and their vote matters.

You can take the Marylander out of the state, but you can't take the state out of the Marylander. HB 542 ensures every Maryland voter living abroad receives a full ballot with Federal, State and Local races so they can exercise their right to vote at all levels of government. The future of their state and all decisions made to navigate that path forward are integral and consequential for each and every one of these voters.

Many did not have a voice in the election of representation in this General Assembly, but it is the responsibility of this body to grant that all Marylanders, and US citizens, have that capability going forward.

We urge a favorable report for HB 542. Thank you for your time, and I'm glad to take questions from the committee.

Sincerely,

Jarryd M. Rauch

**RESIDES AND VOTES IN:** New York City, New York