

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am a resident of District 46 and am a voter in this state and plan to be for the rest of my foreseeable life.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1104, the Voting Rights Act of 2023 – Counties and Municipalities.

HB1104 would prohibit local governments from impairing or diminishing the right of a protected class member to vote or influence election outcomes. With the unfortunate fascist gutting of those rights at the federal level by our stolen and undemocratic Supreme Court over the last decade, it is crucial that Maryland do everything it can at the state level to shore up those basic rights. Nothing in a democracy is as important as assuring that the system remains a democracy. No other problems can ever hope to be fixed without assuring those protections.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to vote in support of HB1104. As remote as any threats to the democratic process may seem within this state, it is never too early to take a moment to assure those threats remain ever so remote.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Ford
3301 Fleet Street
Baltimore, MD 21224