

Testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee
In Support of HB 1112: Election Law- Registered Voter List and
Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)

Nora Miller Smith

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I support HB 1112: The Ballot Petition Modernization Act, which will help make democracy work better by expanding voting rights, and making sure that everyone is represented in our democracy.

Citizens sign petitions because they want the government to hear their voices. They want their opinions to influence policy decisions.

Passage of this legislation would enable citizens to sign petitions electronically, as had been permitted during the Covid-19 pandemic. **This would empower more citizens to have a direct voice in their government, including rural residents, and those without transportation to reach sites where signatures are being physically collected on paper petitions.**

This is a matter of equity. It is important to ensure that EVERY Maryland citizen has a voice.

The bill will also mandate clearer instructions as to what personal information is required on the petition, along with the signature.

I urge a favorable report on HB 1112, to enable every Maryland citizen to have a stronger voice in their government.

Thank you.

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