



HB 1112 Election Law-Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)

SUPPORT

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

House Ways and Means, March 7, 2023

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

The Maryland Centers for Independent Living Support HB1112. As members of the cross-disability community, we understand the importance of having and establishing accessibility measures to improve the quality of life for underserved and underrepresented communities. Access to voting has been one of the main barriers to voter engagement and participation in our community due to architectural, attitudinal barriers, and a lack of accessible apparatuses to support our community. Having full access to voter ballot measures allows members of the cross disability community the opportunity to fully participate in voter and civic engagement. This is about access—and accessibility should be provided and available to all voters and constituents of Maryland. The Maryland Centers for Independent Living strongly urge the House and Ways committees to support and pass this important legislation.

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