

**HB00035- Elections-In-Person Voting
Proof of Identity
Ways and Means Committee
January 31, 2023
Position: Oppose**

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We are writing in opposition of HB0035 as we believe this legislation may depress the opportunity for people with IDD to exercise the right to vote and have their votes count in an election.

The ACLU has detailed the research in this area and explain how overly strict voter photo ID laws are discriminatory and deprive many voters of their right to vote by suppressing participation from historically marginalized groups.¹ Close to 11% of eligible voters do not have the items listed in this bill as acceptable forms of identification and are disproportionately **low-income, black or brown, older adults, and people with disabilities**²

We acknowledge the need to protect the democratic process and believe that Maryland is committed to expanding initiatives that would improve access and opportunity for people with disabilities to vote. We feel this bill would hinder our forward movement and present unnecessary barriers for people who lack documentation and other resources to obtain IDs to participate in the democratic process. We respectfully ask the committee for an unfavorable report on HB0035.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director

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¹ <https://www.aclu.org/fact-sheet/oppose-voter-id-legislation-fact-sheet>.

² <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/vote-suppression/voter-id>