



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

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Sharon Maneki

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Subject: Opposition to HB0022

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

To: House Ways and Means Committee

1/27/2023

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland opposes HB0022 for the following reasons:

This bill promotes discrimination because it is impossible to verify a voting signature by comparing it to voter registration. Blind people do not write the same way each time that they do a signature. Other people with disabilities such as stroke and Parkinson's disease do not write the same way either. Even sighted people vary their signature over time. Therefore, comparing it by voter registration is unreliable. It is unrealistic to ask people to do something that they cannot do.

In a democracy, voting is essential. Maryland claims to make voting easy, creating a policy such as this bill, completely negates Maryland's claim. Signature verification as described in this bill is a way to reduce the number of voters. Please vote unfavorable for HB0022.