



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
and Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 0035** Elections--In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members,

The 1,426 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women most strongly support HB 0035 to require proof of identity for in-person voting in all elections.

The right to vote is one of Americans' most precious rights. Ensuring that the person who appears at the polling place is, in fact, the voter whose name is on the registration record is a sacred duty. The most reliable method of ensuring that the person voting is the registered voter in the poll book is to show a valid government-issued photo identification. Having the election official see the photo ID not only aids in preventing fraudulent voting, it also avoids mistakes that can take place when a person states their name. It reduces the chance that the wrong voter could be checked off on the poll book when the election official can both see the ID and hear the voter state their name and address.

Every citizen should be able to secure a valid government-issued photo identification. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration issues photo identification cards for individuals who do not have a driver's license. HB 0035 also provides several reasonable accommodations for a voter who does not possess a government-issued photo ID, including use of a non-government-issued photo ID along with a utility bill or other document that states the voter's name and address. The bill also provides that if the person does not have a photo-identification, they can vote a provisional ballot.

It is important that only citizens register and vote in our elections. When non-citizens vote, it negates the vote of a citizen. This is unacceptable. All citizens should be able to register to vote and to have their vote counted. All polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans support Voter ID.

Please give a **FAVORABLE** Report to **HB 0035**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women