



CHAIR; ATTERBEARY

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE IN FAVOR OF

HB-1104- MARCH 7, 2023

WILLIE FLOWERS; PRESIDENT

MADAME CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MY NAME WILLIE FLOWERS AND I REPRESENT THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE AND WE ARE IN SUPPORT OF HB-1104.

I AM HAPPY TO SUPPORT HB-1104. THIS BILL ASSURES THAT THE PRACTICE OF LOCAL JURISDICTIONS NEGATIVELY INFLUENCES ELECTIONS TURNOUT. THIS INCLUDES VOTER INTIMIDATION, MISUNDERSTANDS ABOUT POLLING PLACES AND THE MANY CONCERNS ABOUT LITERACY AND THE LIKE.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS A NEW EFFORT TO INVALIDATE ELECTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THESE STEPS CAUSE A LACK OF TRUST IN THE MOST RECENT ELECTION RESULTS AND THEREFORE MAY PROPEL VOTERS NOT TO TURNOUT IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

- **THE BILL AS WRITTEN, HELPS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS THAT WILL BE HELPFUL IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.**
- **HB-1104 WILL PROVIDE LEGAL TOOLS TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION ON ELECTION DAY.**

- IT WILL LAUNCH A PRE-CLEARANCE PROGRAM THE STORES RECORDS OF NEGATIVE OR DISCRIMINATION
- OFFER LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE WHERE THERE IS A NEED
- PROTECT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, DECEPTION OR OBSTRUCTION
- CREATE PROTECTIONS AGAINST ALL ACTIONS THAT WILL REDUCE ELECTION TURNOUT BY ESTABLISHING A HUB OF SUPPORT

ULTIMATELY, THE GOAL IS TO MAKE VOTING A FREE AND FAIR PROCESS. THE OTHER GOAL IS TO HAVE TOTAL ACCESS TO ANYONE WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS ZERO DISCRIMINATION.

WE ENCOURAGE A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HG1104.