



February 21, 2024

Senate Bill 480

Protecting Election Officials Act of 2024

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 480 – Protecting Election Officials Act of 2024

Elections are a critical tool in our democracy and we make our voices heard every two, four, and six years on who will represent us in our local, state, and federal government. They require rigorous hours of service from individuals who take the time to ensure a fair and efficient process at the ballot box. Recently, we have seen an increase in threats, harassment, and violence towards election officials, and this behavior jeopardizes the integrity of our elections. This is unacceptable.

Senate Bill 480 prohibits an individual from knowingly making a threat to harm an election official or an immediate family member. I applaud the Moore-Miller Administration for bringing this legislation to the forefront and making the protection of election officials and administrators a top priority as we push to uphold our values as a state and as a nation. Anne Arundel County fully supports the highly qualified staff and dedicated volunteers who uphold the integrity of our elections despite the possibility of threats and intimidation.

Maryland can be a leader in protecting our democracy, and in order to do so, we must protect those who willingly serve on the frontlines. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 480.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive