



TESTIMONY FOR SB0480 Protecting Election Officials Act of 2024

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ferguson, President

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0480 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

As priority of Governor Moore's, this bill will address the epidemic of threats and harassment targeting election officials that pose a fundamental risk to Maryland's ability to conduct free and fair elections. We cannot be dependent on Congress to pass such legislation nationally.

SB0480 is crucial to safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process in Maryland starting with the national election in November. As we approach this critical period, both domestic and international terrorists continue to target U.S. elections, seeking to achieve a tyranny of the minority.

Of course, the Maryland Legislative Coalition wants free and fair elections. In addition to helping to get great bills like SB0480 passed, our mission is to inform voters about such legislation and their legislators. This is our way of getting informed voters to the polls. We do not want our efforts undone by allowing our election officials to be intimidated and threatened.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.