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**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HB 331 Election Law - Candidate Expenditures - Campaign-Related Child Care Expenses**

**POSITION – Support**

**BY: Linda Kohn, President**

**DATE: February 6, 2024**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland, representing members from across the state, believes that the best way to ensure democracy is to produce representation that reflects community sentiment. The League also has a firm commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

HB 331 is a bill that would allow those who want to become public servants the ability to finance an obstacle that holds them back. Many times, single parents have to choose between their children and activities or professional aspirations. HB 331 would ease some of the hardships that come with the cost and inability to find and retain childcare.

Maryland ranks within the top ten states for single households. Democracy should be representative of those we see in our community. Being a parent, especially a single parent, should not bar Marylanders from running for office.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 331.