



Testimony is respectfully submitted on behalf of the nationwide Association of American Physicians and Surgeons - to the Maryland General Assembly in **SUPPORT of SB 1052 and HB 1222** in March 2024 by Dr. James Kelly- a Maryland physician.

**Transparency = Confidence**

**Secrecy = No Confidence**

This bill is a very simple. It simply asks Boards of Elections to:

- 1) follow Maryland law
- 2) and to do as every other responsible public and private entity does – which is to maintain accurate records and let them be available for legal public inspection (for the people they serve).

No one can have freedom, liberty or democracy without honest elections.

Purpose of the Boards of Elections is to guarantee the most important thing necessary for democracy -which are **honest elections**.

Without honest elections we have a dictatorship.

Without Boards of Elections transparency -we lose honest elections and loose freedom and get **dictatorship**.

Election records are not the personal private property of the boards of elections. Election records and results belong to the people not to the Boards of Elections.

Boards of Elections information is **OUR** information -it belongs to the **people** not to the Board of Elections!

Information contained in your patient medical records- does not belong to the hospitals, clinics, doctors, nurses or therapists who wrote them. That information belongs to the patient. That information must be transparent and available to the person that the records are about.

The Boards of the Hospitals or physicians must be transparent and must provide the records to the patient when properly requested.

Just like your medical records- Election records belong to the people.

Why would the Boards of Elections want to hide or keep secret **OUR** election records or results?

Don't all Boards and agencies - who honestly serve the people – want to have the full confidence of all the people they serve?

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If the Boards are acting properly, and within the law, why would they fear transparency?

So what is the fear of honest transparency?

If you want freedom, liberty, democracy - and honest elections that make freedom, liberty, democracy possible -than there is no other logical response -BUT to vote in support of transparency.

Please vote **YES** on **SB 1052 and HB 1222.**