



February 5, 2025

Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 Miller West Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB66/HB781 – Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland – Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we write in support of ***SB66/HB781 - Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland.***

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living their chosen lives by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

Voting is a vital way for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience full inclusion in their communities. It empowers people to participate in shaping policies that affect their daily lives and ensures their voices are heard. SB66/HB781 would require the State Board of Elections to establish guidelines for local election boards to implement processes that accommodate and expedite voting for elderly voters and voters with disabilities. It would also mandate training and best practices for election judges.

Providing dedicated lines, clear signage, and priority seating for elderly voters and voters with disabilities will help eliminate physical and systemic barriers that still exist. Additionally, this legislation will allow these voters to provide feedback on the voting process and collaborate with the State Board of Elections to further improve accessibility. SB66/HB781 is a crucial step in supporting the state's ongoing efforts and commitment to removing barriers for elderly voters and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB66/HB781.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

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