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**TESTIMONY BY BOARD PRESIDENT DAVID A. NAIMON ON SENATE BILL 534  
REGARDING ELECTION JUDGE COMPENSATION  
SENATE ENERGY, EDUCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2-26-2025**

Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan, for the record, my name is David Naimon, and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'd also like to thank Senators Kagan and Gallion for introducing this important legislation. I'm the President of the Montgomery County Board of Elections and I'm testifying today on behalf of our county board, which unanimously on a bipartisan basis supports this legislation and urges a favorable report. We always need more election judges than we have, and this bill would take two important steps to help us recruit and retain election judges and get them to serve at Early Voting and/or Election Day. First, it would only allow local Boards to pay election judges if they actually serve at Early Voting and/or Election Day. Second, it would allow public school students who serve as election judges to receive *both* student service learning (SSL) hours and the election judge compensation that other election judges receive, rather than requiring the students to pick between the two.

The problem this bill is addressing is real, not hypothetical. In 2022 in Montgomery County alone, we had almost 300 people for the primary election and more than 200 people for the general election who completed and got paid for election judge training without serving either at Early Voting or on Election Day. Those hundreds of election judges not only didn't show up for their service but also took up training slots that could have been used by others. We assume other jurisdictions have a proportionally similar number.

Section 10-205(b) of the Election Law currently requires local boards to pay at least \$50 to any election judge who completes required training. We're happy to pay election judges for completing mandatory training, but it doesn't make sense to pay them if they don't go on to serve at either Early Voting or Election Day.

We're very proud of the roughly 10% of our Montgomery County election judges who are ages 16 or 17 – they are among our most dedicated and hard-working election judges, and they are the election judges for in-person voting for the future. By increasing their incentives to serve, this bill would help us to recruit even more young election judges and help us to continue to have election judges of all ages.

We urge a favorable report on SB 534. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you today.