



Randallstown

Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 24, 2025

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT SB 0342 Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipalities

Dear Honorable Chair Brian J. Feldman, VC Cheryl C. Kagan, and members of the committee:

The Randallstown NAACP is a chapter of the NAACP located in Baltimore County. The branch has over 500 members from Baltimore County and the region. May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the voting rights of Black Americans.

The disenfranchisement of Black Americans has long outlasted the end of the Civil War, with modern instances of voter suppression in the form of limitations on absentee and early voting, stricter voter ID requirements, restrictions on voter registration, and other systemic barriers that decrease the voting engagement of minority populations. Today, Black voter disenfranchisement primarily takes the form of voting restrictions and gerrymandering. Two potential avenues may alleviate this issue: organizations to target legislative policies that uphold disenfranchisement, and supportive policy.

The Randallstown NAACP, other groups and elected officials tried to work with the Baltimore County Council on its redistricting plan in 2021. Still they put forward a map that diluted the voting power of Black residents in Baltimore County. Residents had no easy recourse except a federal lawsuit. Many Black Americans do not have the resources to file a lawsuit. In Fact, the plaintiffs needed help from the ACLU to file the lawsuit that ruled the map was unconstitutional. The residents need an easier path to ensure their constitutional rights are preserved. This bill gives the average Marylander an avenue for recourse.

The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 0342. .

yours,

Ryan Coleman
Randallstown NAACP, President
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