

Testimony in Support of SB0171

From: Liza Smith, Member, Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, District 14

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I am Liza Smith, a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee for District 14, and I fully endorse Senate Bill SB0171. I am pleased to express my strong support for this bill, which addresses critical deficiencies in Maryland's current process for appointing individuals to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. By establishing clear requirements for procedures such as applications, public notice, public meetings, and voting, SB0171 promotes transparency, accountability, and fairness in the selection of candidates to serve our communities.

One key provision of this bill is the mandate that central committee members who have applied for a vacancy must recuse themselves from voting on the individual chosen to fill that vacancy. This measure ensures the integrity of the selection process and mitigates conflicts of interest, thereby upholding public trust and safeguarding against undue influence.

It is encouraging to note that SB0171 has received bipartisan support from both Republicans and Democrats, highlighting its importance in promoting good governance and fostering a

more inclusive and equitable political environment. I urge all members of the General Assembly to swiftly pass this essential legislation for the betterment of our democracy and the constituents we serve.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to upholding the democratic values that define our great state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Liza Smith
Member, Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee,
District 14