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HB 317 – Election Law: Curbside Voting Pilot Program
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 27, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. My name is Charlesetta Griffin, and I serve as Chair of the Legislative Committee for AARP Suitland Maryland Chapter #939. In this role, I work closely with Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of AARP Maryland and its local chapters, I am here to express our strong support for **HB 317 – Election Law: Curbside Voting Pilot Program**. We extend our thanks to Delegates Williams and Wilkins for sponsoring this critical piece of legislation.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that fights for the issues that matter most to its members and all older Americans. One of our priorities is ensuring access to the ballot box for all eligible voters. AARP encourages states to provide a wide range of voting options to make it easier for citizens to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Maryland has made significant progress in expanding voting access by implementing early voting, offering vote-by-mail options, and providing convenient ballot drop-off locations. These measures have rightfully earned the state high marks. However, Maryland lags behind in one crucial area: **curbside voting**.

HB 317 addresses this gap by proposing a Curbside Voting Pilot Program, which would allow any voter to request this option while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process. Curbside voting is especially important for Marylanders with disabilities and frail older adults who face physical barriers to entering polling locations. Many seniors prefer to vote in person on Election Day and would greatly benefit from this accommodation.

Curbside voting is not a novel concept; many states and jurisdictions, including our neighbors in Virginia and the District of Columbia, have successfully implemented similar programs. HB 317 represents Maryland's opportunity to join these states in ensuring equitable access to the polls for all its citizens.

On behalf of AARP Maryland and Chapter 939, I thank the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 317. We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at tbresnahan@aarp.org or 410-302-8451

