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February 3, 2025

Maryland General Assembly Testimony for SB0066 – Election Law – Polling Place

Procedures – Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)

Submitted by: Quintina Kornegay Brown on behalf of the NAACP Prince George's County Branch

I Quintina Kornegay Brown, an executive board member of the NAACP Prince George's County Branch submits this testimony in favor of SB0066 – Election Law – Polling Place Procedures – Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland). I reside in Clinton, Maryland and certified as an Election Judge, by the Board of Elections in Prince George's County. I have observed the following in recent National, Local Primaries and Presidential elections at Prince George's County polling sites.

Prince George's County residents are energized to exercise their power at the polls by fulfilling their constitution and civic duties on election day. At various polling sites there are long lines throughout the day. Seniors with mobility difficulties or simply the "aging process" have challenges in securing their vote. The Maryland General Assembly should afford "Seniors" the courtesy to skip the line or be granted an expedited voting process that does not require standing for extended periods of time. While many citizens graciously allow seniors to move to the beginning of the line, it is not always afforded to the elderly, and it is not the law. According to the United States Census Bureau about 42.5 million Americans have disabilities from the 2021 data that includes the elderly. (U.S. Government Accountability Office -GAO-21-352).

The alternative is a mail-in-ballot. Seniors' preference is to vote in person understandably so when there are concerns over tampering with voter drop-boxes by fire or completely stolen votes that have disappeared and not counted. The Maryland State Board of Elections has an incredibly good record for election integrity. However, voters in general take pride in casting their ballot in person.

Maryland is a progressive "State" and should follow the following States: (MT, ID, AZ, CA NE, KS, OK, TX, WI, MO, MS, CA, MI, IL, OH, WV, VA, NC, SC, VT, NH, AK and the District of Columbia) with accommodations for seniors with disabilities to expedite the in person voting process on election day at the polls.

Requesting your favorable consideration for SB0066 Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Quintina Kornegay Brown