



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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TESTIMONY FOR HB0696

State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups - Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements

Bill Sponsors: Delegates Woods, Acevero, Kaiser, et al

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates

Position: FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates for Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports HB0696, State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups - Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements** We ask you to VOTE FAVORABLY for HB0696.

HB0696 would eliminate **citizenship** requirements for numerous boards and commissions, instead permitting **residents** of Maryland to fill these positions. The bill also requires that members of boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups reflect the full diversity of the State to the extent practicable. This is a positive and proactive way to provide equal chances for persons in Maryland who are qualified for these positions/jobs, and would help protect our diverse Maryland communities from the anti-equality and unjust attempts by the current federal administration to actively prevent and impede immigrants and people of color from a range of better-paying employment opportunities. As Marylanders, we stand strong for ALL of our residents who can and want to contribute their expertise and skills to keep our state a vital and successful place to live and work. Your FAVORABLE vote on HB0696 will help strengthen Maryland's commitment to support all who live here, and would allow a variety of qualified residents to seek these positions and improve their communities and the state.

Respectfully,

Liz Enagonio

Susan Radke

lead advocates, Indivisible Central Maryland

members, Maryland Legislative Coalition