

Written testimony for **HB 253**: Election Law - Pretrial Detainees - Absentee Ballots: Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

This bill's synopsis reads as follows: "...Requiring the State Board of Elections or the local boards of elections to automatically send an absentee ballot to each registered voter in pretrial detention in a correctional facility without the voter having to submit an absentee ballot application..."

People that are in a correctional facility for pre-trial detention should NOT be treated any differently than the rest of the public. All absentee ballots are now referred to as a "mail-in ballot". Registered voters must fill out a "Vote by Mail Ballot Application" if they want to vote by mail. Once the application is received by the Board of Elections, they begin mailing the "mail-in" ballots to voters 30-45 days before the election. We should not be treating any group of people differently than any other group of people. That's discrimination. We should not be automatically sending ballots out to anyone. If every other registered voter has to send in an application for a "mail-in ballot", then people who are in a correctional facility for a pre-trial detention should have to follow the same rules. There should be no special treatment for any groups for any reason. It's simply not fair to everyone else.

Please **VOTE NO on this bill** to show that you do not favor any one group over any other group or individual voters when it comes to accessing "mail-in ballots".

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals
Mother of 3 and Maryland resident