

Testimony in Support of HB 237

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

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

As a representative of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee for District 14, I am pleased to express my full support for HB 237. This bill addresses crucial deficiencies in Maryland's current appointment process for filling vacancies in the General Assembly. By establishing clear requirements for procedures such as applications, public notice, public meetings, and voting, HB 237 promotes transparency, accountability, and fairness in the selection of candidates to serve our communities.

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

It is heartening to see that HB 237 has garnered bipartisan support from both Republicans and Democrats, underscoring its significance 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 all 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