

Beatrice Tignor, Ed.D
President
Prince George's County Board of Elections
1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A
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February 14, 2025

House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Favorable to HB 781 - Election Law – Polling Place Procedures – Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I regret that I am unable to personally deliver my testimony in support of House Bill 781. However, I want to express my strong endorsement of this critical legislation, which aims to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and consistency in Maryland's election process.

As President of the Prince George's County Board of Elections and a board member for over 12 years, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by voters and election workers alike. Long lines, delays, and logistical inefficiencies continue to hinder the voting experience. However, some of the most persistent concerns come from elderly voters, voters with disabilities, and election judges who strive to assist them under difficult circumstances. In Prince George's County, we have already begun to address many of these issues and concerns.

House Bill 781 is a necessary step forward in addressing these issues. By establishing clear timelines and best practices, this bill ensures that all voters—particularly elderly voters and voters with disabilities—receive the support they need. Additionally, it promotes uniformity across local Boards of Elections, creating a more consistent and equitable voting experience statewide.

A key component of this legislation is the emphasis on training election judges. Proper training is essential for ensuring that all voters, regardless of ability, can navigate the voting process with ease and dignity. By aligning these training programs with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, House Bill 781 strengthens Maryland's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Furthermore, the bill mandates the collection of feedback from polling places, allowing for continuous improvements based on real-world experiences. This commitment to ongoing evaluation and refinement is crucial in maintaining a fair and efficient electoral process.

Given my background, experience, and deep commitment to ensuring accessible elections for all Marylanders, I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 781. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice P. Tignor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Beatrice Tignor, Ed.D
President
Prince George's County Board of Elections