



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
And Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members:

RE: **HB 0091** – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity -- **SUPPORT**

The 1,154 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women most strongly support HB 0091 to require proof of identity for in-person voting in all elections.

The right to vote is one of Americans' most precious rights. Ensuring that the person who appears at the polling place is, in fact, the voter whose name is on the registration record is a sacred duty. The most reliable method of ensuring that the person voting is the registered voter in the poll book is to show a valid government-issued photo identification.

Requiring that the election official view the photo ID not only aids in preventing fraudulent voting, it also avoids mistakes that can occur when a person states their name. It reduces the chance that the wrong voter could be checked off on the poll book when the election official both sees the voter's ID and hears the voter state their name and address. Securing a valid government-issued photo identification is not difficult. Most citizens currently possess a government-issued photo ID. Photo identification cards are issued free of charge by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to individuals who do not have a driver's license.

HB 0091 provides several reasonable accommodations for a voter who does not possess a government-issued photo ID, including use of a non-government-issued photo ID along with a utility bill, a check or other document that states the voter's name and address. The bill also provides that if the person does not have a photo-identification, they can vote a provisional ballot.

It is important that only citizens vote in our elections. All citizens should be able to vote and to have that vote counted. When a non-citizen votes, it negates the vote of a citizen. This is unacceptable. Polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans support voter ID.

Please give a **FAVORABLE** Report to **HB 0091**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women