



February 24, 2025

Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor Housing Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB929/HB1097 – Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility – Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we write in support of ***SB929/HB1097 - Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility***.

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with IDD to live the lives they choose by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

Voting is a vital way for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience full inclusion in their communities. It empowers them to participate in shaping policies that affect their daily lives and ensures their voices are heard. SB929/HB1097 would create a workgroup to examine the current processes and procedures for mail-in ballot returns, gather information on existing practices and standards for accessible alternatives to paper mail-in ballot returns, and evaluate potential alternatives for people with disabilities.

The workgroup's evaluation of current processes and possible alternatives will enhance accessibility and security, prevent potential discrimination, and promote autonomy and independence for people with disabilities—all of which are existing barriers. SB929/HB1097 is a crucial step in supporting the state's ongoing efforts and commitment to removing barriers for people with disabilities.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB929/HB1097.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO