

**Sharon Blugis**  
**150 E. Bay View Drive**  
**Annapolis, MD 21403**  
[sharon.new.blugis@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.new.blugis@gmail.com)  
**410.206.9343**

January 24, 2025

Del. Linda Foley  
Del.. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, Ways and Means  
Del. Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair, Ways and Means

**Re: IN SUPPORT of HB171 - Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office**

I am writing today as a resident of District 30 and the former 2023 D30 Democratic Club President and a former AACo Central Committee member (2020-2021).

On January 4, 2025 the AACo Democratic Central Committee in a 10-9 vote appointed Del. Henson to Sarah Elfreth's senate seat. We now have yet ANOTHER appointment to fill Sen. Henson's now vacated seat.

This is the fourth D30 appointment in less than five year's time with as much as 2 to 3 years left in a term before the next election: Speaker Busch's seat in 2019 (Henson was appointed to complete his term of more than 3 years) and Alice Cain's resignation after one year of a four-year term when Del. Jones was appointed.

The fact that 19 votes can "elect" a lawmaker, entrusted with the safety, education, economic prosperity and health care for more than 100,000 people in any given district is undemocratic and must end.

Thus I am urging this Committee to **SUPPORT HB171.**

Sharon Blugis