

Subject: Favorable SB0901 Telephone Voting System

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To: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

I came from India to this country in 1990 and became a citizen of the US in 1996. I have never missed an opportunity to vote since I became eligible in 1996. I am a resident of Rockville and district 17. I have lived at my current location since 2011.

Every time the elections came around, my father would drive me to the polling place, and I was able to use the BMD to cast my vote. My father passed away in December. Now I have no means to get to the polling place. I do not have reliable transportation. The buses only run for three hours in the morning and three hours in the evening, with no time during the middle of the day. Taxis will not take me half a mile to the nearby school as they want a long-distance fare. Metro access, the paratransit system for Montgomery County and surrounding areas, would require me to wait to return home for at least two hours. Voting doesn't take nearly as long and would therefore leave me in the polling place until the vehicle comes back for me. It's unreasonable for both me and the polling place to wait for that length of time while I am in the way while voting takes place.

This legislation will give me another tool in my toolbox. A telephone voting system is the best opportunity for me to participate in the democratic process and be able to cast my vote.

Please vote in favor of SB0901. Give us this opportunity to vote secretly and without any sighted assistance.