



February 2, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates,
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB0044 - Ballot Questions in Plain Language - FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women supports the goals of HB0044, requiring that petitions for ballot questions and the wording of the question on the actual ballot be in plain language that non-lawyers can easily and fully understand.

We also support having these documents clearly state the practical outcome or result of each vote option -- "For" and "Against" -- so that the voter can select the option for the result they support.

Whether intentional or not, the convoluted wording of ballot questions can confuse voters, causing them to select the vote that is the opposite of what they desire.

Voters are more likely to vote on a ballot question when they fully understand the issue and the implications of each vote choice.

We should also ensure that the rules for petition gatherers are in plain language so that petition gatherers understand what is required to obtain valid signatures on ballot question petitions.

For these reasons, please give **HB0044** a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
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