

HB 1265: Election Law - Candidate Truthfulness - Oath: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **support** for **HB1265**, "Election Law - Candidate Truthfulness - Oath."

In an era where misinformation and misleading statements during political campaigns can significantly undermine public trust in our electoral process, this bill represents a meaningful and practical step toward greater accountability. By requiring candidates to submit a sworn oath or affirmation with their certificate of candidacy—committing to truthfulness regarding key information presented to voters—**HB 1265** promotes integrity and helps ensure that Marylanders receive honest representations from those seeking public office.

The inclusion of sanctions for violations provides a necessary enforcement mechanism, making the oath more than symbolic. This requirement builds on existing candidacy filing processes without imposing undue burdens, while reinforcing the principle that those who ask for our votes should be held to a standard of basic honesty.

I urge the Committee to give **HB 1265** a favorable report and encourage its passage. Maryland voters deserve elections grounded in truth and transparency, and this bill advances that goal effectively.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals