

TESTIMONY FOR **HB0219**

Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation and Suppression

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Smith

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2026

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Huberman, and I am a physician and resident of Pikesville, MD, in district 11B.

I am submitting this testimony in favor of **HB0219** because I believe deeply in the values of a free and open democratic society, where everyone has a legal right to participate safely and equally in elections and the democratic process.

HB0219 is an emergency bill that would enact protections against voter intimidation and suppression in Maryland, thereby strengthening Maryland's commitment to protecting Marylanders' fundamental right to vote. It prohibits acts of intimidation, deception, or obstruction that interfere with a person's ability to cast a ballot. The bill also prevents local governments from adopting or enforcing any election-related policy that results in disparities between members of a protected class and other voters.

At this time in America, when the Trump administration refuses to rule out the possibility of sending ICE agents to local polling stations, these protections are fundamentally necessary. Even less-obvious forms of obstruction can discourage participation, especially among communities that have historically faced barriers to the ballot box.

HB0219 ensures that Maryland has clear, enforceable standards to ensure full access to the ballot and to hold accountable those who attempt to undermine the voting process.

By prohibiting intimidation and deceptive practices, **HB0219** strengthens the integrity of our elections and protects the rights of voters who are most vulnerable to suppression. It reinforces the values of equity and civic empowerment, and helps build a healthier, more inclusive democracy for all Marylanders.

I urge you to support **HB0219** and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.