

Testimony on House Bill 219 – Favorable
HB219 – Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation and Suppression
Government, Labor, and Elections
February 2, 2026

Dear Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

My name is Michelle Koul, and I am a constituent of District 31. I am writing **in support of HB219 – Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation and Suppression**

I have served as an election judge since accusations of voter fraud became a GOP talking point. Initially, I wanted to serve to see with my own eyes how elections are run, so I could speak from a position of knowledge with regards to the security of our elections. I found myself returning to serve in future elections as I enjoyed working with the citizens of both parties who, like myself, consider the act of voting a privilege and a duty. That certain communities could encounter barriers to voting, or be harassed while trying to cast their ballot seemed like offenses from the past; however, the chaos at the federal level has convinced me that we need to do whatever we can to protect voter access. I fear that this administration will go to extremes to inhibit access to the polls in order to secure power - and Maryland needs to be ready. I know as an election judge I am supposed to do all I can to ensure eligible voters can cast their vote. This Act will provide important state powers, and legal leverage to protect that access.¹

Please submit a favorable report on **HB219 – Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation and Suppression.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dr. Michelle Koul (she/her)
Severna Park, MD 21146

¹ <https://www.mdvra.org/>