

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0670
Election Law – Local Board of Elections Employees
Authority at Polling Places
House Committee on Government, Labor and Elections

To: Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee

Organization Submitting: BeTheChangeBmore

Person Submitting: Mary Jo Kirschman, Board member

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0670, on behalf of BeTheChangeBmore. We are an association of over 1500 activists - volunteer citizen lobbyists who have been organizing to protect democracy in Maryland since 2016. **Protecting free and fair elections is our core principle.**

SB0670 clarifies and strengthens the authority of local board of elections employees at polling places by giving local election board employees ultimate authority at the polls.

As an election judge in Baltimore City, I have come to appreciate how election workers are the well-trained backbone of our voting system, and must have clear, consistent authority to maintain order, ensure compliance with election law, and protect voters' rights.

SB 0670 provides the structure needed to support election workers in carrying out their responsibilities safely and effectively.

Given efforts at the national level right now to undermine voting rights, Maryland must be prepared to prevent any outside interference that would counter our efforts to keep voters safe and fair elections fully protected.

BeTheChange respectfully urges a FAVORABLE VOTE ON SB 0670. Thank you.