

February 16, 2026

**Testimony on HB 641
Election Law - Curbside Voting - Pilot Program - Establishment
Government, Labor, and Elections Affairs**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports HB 641, which would make voting during elections more accessible for all voters with disabilities or mobility issues and ensure that all citizens can participate in the democratic process regardless of physical limitations, further promoting equity on Election Day.

Voting is not just a privilege but a fundamental right; it is the cornerstone of American democracy. However, standing and waiting for hours at the polls can be physically exhausting and create an invisible barrier for disabled voters. This can discourage those who are uncomfortable with mail-in ballots, resulting in limited political participation among disabled individuals.

Under HB 641, poll workers would assist by bringing ballots to individuals' vehicles, allowing them to vote without causing strain. Maryland is already familiar with providing accommodations for voters with disabilities, and this legislation would further narrow down the gap in political participation between able-bodied individuals and those needing assistance. It would help increase voter turnout for all citizens, regardless of physical challenges. Since voting has not always been right accessible to everyone, this bill aims to make voting equitable and accessible.

HB 641 assists in our goal of ensuring all voters feel comfortable and valued during their voting experience as well as aid in closing the divide in disabled Marylanders' engagement in elections. For these reasons, we recommend a favorable report.