

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2026

Julie Robin Solomon

Baltimore, MD 21231

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0219-
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Full Bill Name: Maryland Voting Rights Act of
2026--Voter Intimidation and Suppression**

TO: Chair Del. Melissa Wells; Vice Chair, Del Kenneth Kerr, and members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Julie Robin Solomon

My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#219, Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026--Voter Intimidation and Suppression

I have resided in Baltimore City for 39 years. I belong to the ACLU and Indivisible Baltimore. I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB219--Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026--Voter Intimidation and Suppression. HB#0219 is essential to ensuring that all Marylanders, particularly those from historically disenfranchised communities, have the equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. The thing that scares me the most about the depredations of the Trump Administration is its negative effects on free and fair elections on this country on both the national and local levels. Our 20226 midterms are at risk this year, not to mention the 2028 presidential election. IF WE DON'T HAVE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS WE DON'T HAVE A DEMOCRACY. For over sixty years, the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 served as the nation's most effective tool for tackling discriminatory voting practices. But now the Supreme Court has greatly weakened his protective powers. Meanwhile, the federal government is not only failing to protect against intimidation and discrimination in our voting processes, but is actively advancing anti-voter policies. At a time when federal voting rights protections have been weakened and enforcement has become increasingly uncertain, Maryland legislators have both the authority and the responsibility to safeguard fair and equal access to the ballot. We must not let those who have come before us and died to protect voting rights to have died in vain.

HB #0219 meets this perilous moment by building on the protections provided in the federal VRA with further provisions to protect against voter suppression and intimidation. This bill makes administrative changes that will strengthen Maryland's ability to preent voter intimidation, deception, or obstruction that interferes with our right to vote. We must do all we can to protect our democracy and this bill takes us further in that direction. HB#0219 strengthens Maryland's democratic institutions, honors the legacy of the federal Voting Rights Act, and helps ensure that every eligible voter has an equal opportunity to participate in choosing who represents them within their localgovernment .For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB#0219.