

Lisa Fuller, Written Testimony for HB 1356, IN FAVOR

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 1356 – Labor and Employment - Civic and Related Activities - Protection (Maryland Employee Civic Activity and Lawful Expression Protection Act)

March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, Delegate Lopez, and Members of the Committee, I am writing to urge you to issue a **favorable report on HB 1356**.

Civic activity is a part of our lives. Workers should form opinions on their own, regardless of where they work. And these workers should feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of discipline or being fired. This must apply to all areas of civic activity: volunteering, postcard writing, protesting, bridge drops, etc. Testifying is an amazing way to express oneself, one's views, yet too many workers are concerned they'll be seen, or heard, or their name will be publicized.

Many of my friends who do come to my home, or to a meeting will not be in pictures, or on video for fear they will be reprimanded. They are not "on duty", they are participating after hours or during the weekends. How is it any employers' business to determine what an employee does is inappropriate or should be punishable?

Please vote Favorable on HB 1355 and allow this bill to move forward to the full House for consideration. Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,
Lisa Fuller
Founder Indivisible MiCoWoMen.