



## TESTIMONY

### **SB0670 – Election Law – Local Board of Elections Employees Authority at Polling Places**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kagan

**Committee:** Government, Labor, and Elections

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0670** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists—individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

SB0670 clarifies and strengthens the authority of local board of elections employees at polling places by giving local election board employees authority over on duty police officers. Election workers are the backbone of Maryland’s voting system, and they must have clear, consistent authority to maintain order, ensure compliance with election law, and protect voters’ rights. This bill provides the structure needed to support election workers in carrying out their responsibilities safely and effectively.

At a time when national rhetoric has suggested deploying a harassing police presence at polling places, it is essential that Maryland take steps to prevent any force that would counter our efforts to keep voters safe and fully informed. By clarifying the authority of local board employees, SB0670 strengthens the orderly, professional environment that voters need to participate freely and confidently.

Because a core part of our mission is to inform voters about legislation and their legislators, we must ensure that Marylanders can engage in the democratic process without intimidation. Therefore, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0670.