

# Indivisible **HoCoMD**



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
Government, Labor and Elections  
HB 499**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**by: Marijane Monck, Defend Democracy Team Lead,  
Indivisible Howard County**

**Date: 2/11/26**

On behalf of our 1700+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of HB 499. IndivisibleHoCoMD is an informal group of citizens in Howard County, MD, registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy.

Our members are deeply involved in elections, particularly in collecting ballot petition signatures. HB 499 modernizes this process by allowing electronic signatures and establishing clear procedures for validation, storage, and delivery to sponsors. Enabling electronic signatures streamlines participation and lowers barriers to civic engagement. We believe this reform will empower more Marylanders to support candidates and ideas that shape our state's future.

**Indivisible Howard County, representing 1700+ citizens in Maryland, urges a favorable report on HB 499.**