



TESTIMONY

HB0871 – Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration System

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0871 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district—representing more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0871 strengthens Maryland’s automatic voter registration system by improving how voter information is collected, verified, and transmitted, and by allowing the State Board of Elections to expand enhanced automatic voter registration to additional state agencies. These updates make registration more accurate and more accessible for eligible voters.

This bill is especially important now. The federal SAVE Act and other efforts from the current administration are aimed at narrowing who can register and vote, relying on unfounded claims about fraud to justify new barriers. HB0871 counters that by modernizing our systems and making sure eligible voters are added to the rolls through a secure, streamlined process.

Voter suppression runs directly against the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work is rooted in helping Marylanders engage with their government and giving them the information they need to make informed voting decisions. When registration becomes harder, participation drops—and the people most affected are those who already face obstacles. HB0871 strengthens the foundation of our democracy by ensuring that eligible voters are registered efficiently and without unnecessary hurdles.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0871.