

Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2100

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Loretta Gaffney, and I respectfully ask you to give House Bill 2100, the companion bill to Senate Bill 2100, an unfavorable report.

I have been a Maryland voter for decades. I have raised my family here, and I care deeply about the future my children and grandchildren will inherit. I have also served as an election judge, which has given me a firsthand appreciation for the importance of conducting elections with integrity and maintaining the public's trust.

As a Christian, I believe we are called to value truth, justice, honesty, and fairness. Those principles guide my civic involvement just as they guide my personal life. I believe every person is created with equal worth and that every Maryland voter deserves an equal opportunity to have his or her voice heard, regardless of political party or viewpoint.

For that reason, I am concerned about placing the provisions of HB 2100 into our state Constitution. Constitutional amendments should be adopted only when they strengthen public confidence, protect equal representation, and reflect broad public consensus. They should never create the perception that the rules governing our elections could favor one group of voters over another or diminish confidence in the fairness of our democratic process.

Our state is deeply divided, and I believe now is the time to rebuild trust. As legislators, you have an opportunity to demonstrate that fairness and transparency are more important than political advantage. I respectfully ask you to preserve meaningful public confidence in our elections by rejecting this constitutional amendment.

My prayer is that Maryland will continue to be a state where every citizen is treated with dignity, every vote is respected, and our laws reflect fairness and integrity for all.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give House Bill 2100 an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to the people of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Gaffney