



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0141 - Election Law -- Election Misinformation, Election Disinformation, and Deepfakes - UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Wells and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women understands the goals of SB0141 but would like to share the following observations:

- In the absence of a defined process and specific criteria for determining “credible report”, the ability to subpoena and to initiate a civil action could be used in a biased and unfair manner against an individual or other entity.
- To prevent any possibility of bias, when the misrepresentation relates to the “time, place, or manner of an election, election results”, the clarification from the State Board of Elections should be limited to that information existing on the Board’s website. Further clarification may be appropriate for explaining “voting rights in the State”.
- Page 3 Line 7 -- It would appear that anyone sharing an item subsequently deemed disinformation or misinformation could be accused of disseminating the information and subject to civil action.
- Page 4 Lines 16-17 seems superfluous. After removing lines 18-19, what difference whether a broadcaster was paid or not?

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our thoughts on **SB0141**.

Sincerely,

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