

February 17, 2026

Re: House Bill 641: Election Law - Curbside Early Voting - Pilot Program (HB 641)
Chair, V. Chair, and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections
Committee:

My name is Monica Wiley, and I respectfully ask for your vehement support of HB 641 Election Law-Curbside Early Voting-Pilot Program. This bill is very personal. As a voter with a physical disability (I have an incomplete spinal cord injury caused by a drunk driver tractor trailer accident that killed my entire family at the age of nine. As a result, I walk with a cane.) I've experienced immense challenges and barriers to voting due to architectural and attitudinal barriers. In previous Election cycles, I've encountered significant voting challenges. I had to walk a long distance to the polling location; the line was significantly too long for me to stand, so an Election Officer stood in my place until it was time for me to vote. As a proud confident woman and voter who takes pride in her independence, not only was I embarrassed—but I felt very inadequate as a voter, and it was incredibly taxing on my body physically where my body felt incredibly stressed and exhausted.

As a former resident of Virginia (who was one of the few architects responsible for Curbside Voting becoming a law in the Commonwealth of Virginia) and is now a proud resident of Maryland for ten years, voters with disabilities including myself feel very disenfranchised and marginalized due to the lack of accessibility and accommodations to the voting ballot. Not only is it inhumane—it is unacceptable! Currently, 29 states including Virginia and Washington DC have adopted Curbside Voting for individuals with disabilities. Our community is vast and varied and requires accommodations like our neighbors, peers and other voting members of society. Full access to voter participation should be available and convenient without experiencing undue stress and pressure to one's respective disability. My community should be able to vote in person comfortably with the same dignity, rights and fairness as other members of society. I'm a hard-working professional who has built a career in equity, inclusion and belonging for my community. Voting is the bedrock of our democracy. It is the freedom, ability, and independence to exercise our voice through voting without challenges and barriers. Proper access and accommodations to the voting process is critical and vital to advancing the fairness, parity, and rights of people with disabilities. Having full access to the voting ballot adds value to our autonomy,

our voice, our freedom and ability to participate in voting, as well as the right to exercise the 15th amendment which provides voting rights and voting access for all.

In closing—I like to end with a quote by Martin Luther King Jr., “the time is always right to do what is right”. That being said, let’s work together to pass HB 641. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Monica Wiley