



Live the life you want.

From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Labor, Elections, and Government Committee to give a favorable report to HB0499 – Election Law - Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act).

As the state's oldest and largest organization of and for blind, low vision, and deaf blind individuals, the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland advocates for equal access to all aspects of the voting process. However, given that our community, by virtue of our blindness, have a print disability rendering it difficult or impossible to handle paper, signing candidate petitions has always been foreclosed to us. This bill would enable us, for the first time, to be able to actually be part of the process of getting candidates on the ballot. The current process is discriminatory and archaic.

For those reasons, we enthusiastically ask for a favorable report on HB0499. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.