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Testimony in Support HB 140

January 29, 2020

Assigned to Ways and Means

A Bill entitled Election Law-Petitions and Ballot Questions- Plain Language Requirement

Sponsored by Delegate Guyton

Written by Liz Weintraub

My name is Liz Weintraub and I live in Rockville Maryland. I am a member of People on the Go, which is the Self-Advocacy organization in Maryland and a member of the Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Council. I work on the national level at the Association on Universities Centers on Disabilities in Silver Spring, Maryland working on making sure documents are in plain language and the host a UTUBE show where my guests and I explain legalist ion in a way so everyone can understand and be part of the discussion. As a person with an Intellectual I think it's important for things to be in plain language so we can be a part of the conversation and belong. As a person with an intellectual disability, when I don't understand, I don't feel like I belong to the conversation or that no one cares if I and my friends understand. It is my personal belief that plain language is important, there's a plain Language act that the Federal government came out in 2010. I am including the link in my testimony.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-111publ274>. This might be a federal act that is required by the government, but to me, I believe it just make sense to use plain language so we can all understand and belong to the conversation.

Everyone should vote and have our voices heard and that includes people with intellectual disabilities. If the materials and the election process is in plain language and in way that we all can understand, all citizens would be able to participate in discussions The Polling process can be very confusing for all people especially for people with intellectual disabilities . Because we might not be able to understand the materials that are being sent to us in the mail that are supposed help us be prepare to vote on Election Day or even at the polling place, these materials should and must be in plain language so everyone can understand them and not have the feeling of being left out.. We, People with intellectual disabilities have the right to voice our opinions in our country's democracy. We can only have this chance if we have the right to understand what's going on. Therefore I believe it's really extremely important for people to help us understand what's going on

I work on disability policies. Most of the policies effect my friends and me. Therefore as a person with intellectual disabilities, I believe we should be able to understand these policies. One of my favorite phases is "Nothing about us...without us". I had the honor of testifying in the US Senate in the Kavanagh

case Once my colleagues explain it in a way that makes sense to me, I was able to explain the case to people.

Thank you for the chance to submit written testimony on this important bill, so we can all belong.