



MARYLAND FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman, and Members, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

RE: SB838 - FAVORABLE

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the more than 1300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women (MFRW), representing citizens from across Maryland, I am writing to ask you for a Favorable Report on SB 838.

We believe this bill preserves and respects the rights of all registered voters. Requiring a voter to present a photo ID (or other approved document) protects the integrity of every voters' vote. Currently, anyone who knows a registered voter's name, address, and month/day of birth can vote as that person on a regular ballot. When an individual votes on a regular ballot, it is permanent. There is no way to remove this vote once it has been cast. By requiring a voter to present photo ID (or other approved document), the integrity of the election is preserved.

Those who oppose requiring Voter ID often cite that not all voters have photo ID and that obtaining an acceptable form of ID is difficult for these people. We believe this bill addresses many of those concerns. An individual who does not have photo ID can still prove their identity through a bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, or similar document. Even if an individual still cannot prove their identity through one of these means, he or she may still vote but will use a provisional ballot. These ballots are reviewed after election day. If the voter is found to be eligible, then the vote is counted. If not, the vote is not counted. No other voter's vote is affected. The rights of all are preserved.

Therefore, the members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women request a Favorable Report for SB838.

Thank you,

Diana D Waterman

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