



**BILL: SB0449**

**BILL TITLE: Public Information Act – Revisions (Equitable Access to Records Act)**

**BILL SPONSOR: Senator Kagan**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**HEARING DATE: 2/23/21**

### **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB0449**

Represent Maryland is a grassroots, all volunteer group of voters who believe in democracy and oppose corruption. We believe that a key tenet of a democracy is transparency. In the words of former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants”. In short, robust transparency mitigates corruption.

We believe that the public must have access to government workings because an educated and informed electorate is essential to a healthy democracy. But our democracy is currently in jeopardy, partially due to decades of lack of access to information and often insurmountable obstacles to obtaining it.

Legislation that improves transparency is more important than ever. Thus, we urge a favorable report for SB0449 as it will strengthen the Public Information Act and make it more universally accessible to all Marylanders.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland  
Maryland Voter-LD07

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at [www.RepresentMaryland.org](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)  
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer