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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
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Joint Committees

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Fair Practices and
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Testimony for Senate Bill 25
Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day
March 11, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 25 - Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day, which designates the fourth Tuesday in October as a commemorative day in celebration of voting reform in Maryland.

Prior to 1986, county commissioners and council members were elected through at-large voting, which largely disenfranchised minority and rural populations. In 1986, the Maryland Constitution was amended to remove this requirement, with citizens from northern Dorchester County leading the effort including:

1. George C. Jones,
2. Don W. Bradley,
3. Richard Harding,
4. Edward Conway,
5. Leon Medford,
6. Charles F. Hurley Sr,
7. Oliver Harding,
8. William Harding,
9. William Reid,
10. William O. Corkan
11. Gregory Meekins.

Senate Bill 25 celebrates and commemorates the efforts of these men. In addition, this bill celebrates voting equity for minority and rural citizens across Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 25.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt