

**Subject: Favorable Support for SB0271/HB0423**  
**To: The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Committee**  
**From: Edwin Jackson**  
**Contact: Edwin Jackson**  
**14100 Woodens Lane**  
**Reisterstown, MD 21136**

**Date: February 18, 2021**

Good Afternoon, my name is Edwin Jackson. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am here today in support of SB271, advocating for accountability to preserve a secret and secure Ballot for several reasons, and from a slightly different perspective than those speaking before me.

Secret means not discernible to or by the public.

I share the very same concerns and experiences of my cohorts, who express that the ballot used for visually impaired voters is dramatically different from those used by everyone else, and therefore, discernible by the number of visually impaired who voted. Prior to my blindness there were safeguards to guarantee the security and secrecy of the ballot. That is not the case today.

Given the tenor of events recently appearing on the public stage, during this last Presidential election regarding the sanctity and security of our votes, threats were made by those extremists, who seek to change, alter, or decertify those votes; which revealed a vulnerability and fragility of the process. Also, these threats and actions by those representatives who expect to benefit from our vote represent a potential and serious breach of personal and moral security.

As a Vietnam and Desert Storm Veteran, I take citizenship seriously, my allegiance to this country, the oath I swore to uphold will not allow me to support any effort that does not preserve the sanctity, secrecy and security of the ballot. A ballot unprotected for one is a ballot unprotected for all. We must do everything possible to secure and preserve the democratic process and secure the ballot and the vote from all external as well as internal alliances that seek to compromise the integrity of the process. Please vote in favor of SB271.