

Merideth Taylor  
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Subject: HB0656: Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Accessibility of Public Transportation  
Ways and Means Committee – February 9th, 2021  
FAVORABLE

Dear Delegate Kaiser and members of the Committee,

I request a favorable finding for HB0656: Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Accessibility of Public Transportation.

There is currently only one early voting center in St. Mary's County. It is at the northern end of the county, and a twenty-minute drive from where I reside in the Lexington Park area (District #4). And it is a much further drive from the southern end of the county. Unfortunately, many of the folks who live in District #4, which is the most densely populated and most economically depressed district do not have cars and must rely on public transportation. This is also true of some who live further south as well. Reasonable, convenient public transportation to the Hollywood site is not available for people in Lexington Park and further south. State law requires accessibility to election centers for MD citizens with disabilities and claims that this requirement is met. But accessibility for all citizens is not actually a reality. For those without cars and those who are not able to struggle with long and arduous public transportation, the lack of a more convenient location amounts to discouraging voter turnout a form of voter suppression.

Yours truly,

Merideth Taylor