



MARYLAND FEDERATION  
*of*  
Republican Women

The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chairman, and Members, Ways and Means

RE: HB 341 - OPPOSE

Dear Delegates:

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 Unfavorable Reports on HB 341.

HB 341 will create a much greater opportunity for the sanctity and secret nature of an election to be violated. By beginning the canvas of absentee ballots 14 days prior to Election Day, there is a much greater chance of these results being leaked which could have an impact on the totals. All canvasses should have poll watchers (from both Parties) observing the proceedings as well as all of the individuals serving as canvassers. Multiple that for the 24 local boards and there will be a huge number of individuals who will be seeing who is winning prior to Election Day.

There is a reason that the results of Early Voting are not tabulated/processed until the polls close on Election Day. Absentee Ballots should be handled the same way.

In conclusion, the members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly oppose HB 341 and ask for an Unfavorable Report.

Thank you,

*Diana D Waterman*

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