

January 26, 2021

**Testimony on HB 211
Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Days of Operation
Ways and Means**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports HB 211, which would expand early voting in Maryland to include the Friday and Saturday before the election.

Democracy works best when all eligible persons are able to participate and make their voices heard. Early voting allows more opportunities to get to the polls – easing or eliminating problems for those who cannot make it to vote on Election Day.

Early voting has proven tremendously popular in Maryland. During the 2020 General Election, we broke the state record for single-day turnout surpassing previous unofficial single-day early voting record set in the 2016 general election and we expect the program to grow more popular as early vote center locations increase and become more accessible.

As the state strives to engage more voters in our elections, it is important to provide opportunities for voters to cast their ballots at a time and on a schedule that works with busy lives, long work hours, and other barriers to voting on Election Day.

We support expanding early voting to ensure that all voters have ample opportunity to get to the polls, and HB 211 is an important part of that reform.

We urge a favorable report.