



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL
1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 6**
General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Committee
February 4, 2021
1:30 PM

Presented to: Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman
By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to SB 6.**

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are uniting workers in health care, public services, including public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 50,000 workers in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region.

Some people have claimed that Maryland is the least democratic (lower case “d”) in the country. We have fewer Election Days for state and local elections than most other states. All our officials for state offices are on the ballot at the same time for the same four-year terms. All counties have the same election calendar as the state. We do not have the “Initiative” as many states have, where citizens can put their own issues on the ballot if the legislature fails to act. And, of course, for senators and delegates, we do not have special elections.

We allow the citizens of our state, very few opportunities to weigh in with their approval or disapproval on the direction that our state is headed.

In filling vacancies, we have a system where half a handful of people can make the decision on who will represent the people. When, as in a recent case, a delegate was selected by a 3-2 vote, are we surprised that the voters are not connected to their representative?

SB 6 gives us the opportunity to change this and turn the “People’s Houses” back to the people.

We urge a Favorable Report on SB 6. Thank you.

