



The Arc Maryland
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**HB 113
Ways and Means Committee**

**Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity
January 25, 2022**

Position: Opposition

The Arc Maryland is Maryland's largest, grassroots advocacy organization advocating for the rights of people with intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities (IDD). We respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 113 which would require in-person voters to prove their identity to an election judge through government-issued photo identification, or nongovernment-issued photo identification and a government document that includes the voter's name and address. HB 113 states that any voter who cannot provide the required documentation will receive a provisional ballot. The Arc Maryland opposes this legislation because it may have the unintended consequence of disenfranchising voters with disabilities.

People with disabilities are the largest minority group represented in the United States with one in four as having been identified according to data put forward by the Centers for Disease Control.¹ People with IDD have historically faced barriers to exercising their voting rights and this legislation would present more obstacles.

To the point of photo identification, some individuals with disabilities may not have access to the necessary documentation to obtain government-issued identification, or the required supplemental documentation including the voter's name and address with nongovernment-issued identification. Moreover, the issuance of a provisional ballot is additionally restrictive to voters with disabilities and may result in their vote not counting.

For all of these reasons, we are hopeful for an unfavorable report from the Committee on HB 113. Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions please contact Mat Rice, Director of Public Policy.

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