



NATIONAL FEDERATION  
**OF THE BLIND**  
MARYLAND

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Subject: Support with Amendment HB0041 – Curbside Voting

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

To: House Ways and Means Committee

1/27/2023

On page 4, line 21-22, remove the phrase “INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE” so that the bill would read “AN ELECTION JUDGE SHALL GIVE AN ELIGIBLE VOTER USING CURBSIDE VOTING THE CHOICE TO VOTE BY MARKING A PAPER BALLOT AT THE CURBSIDE VOTING LOCATION OR BY USING A BALLOT MARKING DEVICE.”

If this bill is amended as shown above, the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland supports the curbside voting bill. The current ballot marking device used in Maryland is portable. It has a battery backup. The voter should have the choice to use this device. If curbside voting is to become a reality, the choice of whether to use the ballot marking device or paper must be maintained. There is no reason why the ballot marking device cannot be used outside. If Maryland was to change the ballot marking device, it should stipulate that it must have one that can be used at the curb. As long as Maryland continues to have two voting systems (the ballot marking device or the paper ballot), election judges must give the voter the choice of using either system.

The Election Assistance Commission developed a guide for curbside voting which clearly indicates that a voter must be given the choice to use a machine. If this choice is not available, the election officials are discriminating against the voter. This form of discrimination should not be permitted.

Please vote in favor of HB0041 as amended by the sponsor and recommended by The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland.