



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

House Ways & Means Committee

HB 41: Election Law – Curbside Voting – Establishment

January 31, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 41. **It increases access to the fundamental right to vote for people with disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- HB41 requires that local boards of elections accommodate curbside voting, and make it available to all registered voters with disabilities.
- It also requires specific policies and procedures for accessible curbside voting that provide options.

WHY is this legislation important?

- Voting is a fundamental right that Maryland's citizens with developmental disabilities want and need.
- The lack of accessible polling locations in Maryland remains a barrier for people with disabilities.
- With more voting options available in the 2020 election, 62% of people with disabilities voted (a six-point increase over 2016)¹. Additional methods may increase the number of people with disabilities who vote.

This is another critical step to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the access and opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to vote. For that reason, the DD Coalition supports HB41.

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¹ https://smmr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Centers/Program_Disability_Research/FactSheet_Disability_Voter_Turnout_2020.pdf