



**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Testimony on:** HB0616 - Election Law – Early Voting – Number of Days

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2023

**Bill Contact:** Delegate D. Barnes

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplift all members of our communities, and promote equity across all our communities. DTMG strongly opposes HB0661 because it will reduce the number of early voting days from 8 days to 5 days.

In the United States, the right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and our elected officials must ensure that all eligible citizens have easy access to voting. Many Maryland voters rely on early voting due to work, travel, or family care schedules. HB0616 will make voting harder for many Maryland citizens by reducing the number of early voting days. The early voting schedule proposed in HB0616 will also include only one weekend day, a Sunday when many voters have religious or family obligations, in the early voting window.

There are already too many impediments to voting. We should make early voting more accessible, not less! Therefore, DTMG strongly opposes HB0616 and urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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