

Witness: Jean Miceli Benhoff
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County
Bill: HB0041 Curbside Voting
Position: AGAINST

I respectfully suggest to you, the MD Legislature, that Covid 19 emergency is over and was declared so by then Governor Hogan on July 1, 2021. This proposed bill HB0041 is way past its due and is obsolete legislation. I strongly urge you to immediately withdraw HBOO41.

Further:

Unequivocally, this idea of curbside voting can no longer serve the citizens of Maryland. This was only then encouraged due to Covid safety. Now, (absolutely) no longer a threat to the public safety¹.

Further:

In 2020, 'Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill said it wouldn't be feasible for the state to make it available in this year's election. He said that allowing curbside voting would pose safety concerns, "cause confusion and much harm" and could compromise ballot secrecy².

These facts above stated by Mr. Merrill remain true to this very day. In my opinion and that of the United States Supreme Court, thus I ask you to withdraw this outdated legislation.

Further:

As a MD citizen with a physical disability and an authorized Maryland Handicap Parking Tag since 2014, I attest to you that when needed, I was able to request a mail-in ballot and then safely mail my ballot in via the USPS or drop in a drop box, thus there is for every possible disabled person's desire to vote safely and more securely than via a curbside location. Curbside poses many risks most predominantly physical harm which could be greater than the voter's first disability.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-court-blocks-curbside-voting-alabama-n1244233>
2. <https://time.com/6249841/covid-19-no-longer-a-public-health-emergency/>