



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

### Voting Rights

Voting is a fundamental right. People with disabilities want and need access to the voting process.

These bills would be a step in the wrong direction. They make voting harder for people with disabilities:

**HB 99: Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Signature Requirements and Verification**

Requires the verification of a voter's signature on an absentee ballot envelope.

**HB 113: Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity**

Requires a voter to show government issued identification and additional documents that show the voter's name and address.

**HB 212: Election Law – Signature Verification of Absentee Ballots and Absentee Ballot Applications and Ballot Canvassing**

Requires signatures to be verified on absentee ballot applications and requests and absentee ballots.

#### Why are these bills a problem?

- They create barriers for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot, and are twice as likely not to have government issued identification.
- They negatively impact people with disabilities more than people without disabilities. There are more requirements just for people with disabilities.

This bill would be a step in the right direction. It will make voting in-person easier and more accessible for people with disabilities:

**HB 702: Election Judges – Training and Signs – Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance**

Requires training materials provided to election judges include information on the ways to help older voters and voters with disabilities. It also requires the State Board of Elections to make signs to post at polling places that explain how election judges can help people.

- All Marylanders must have the same access to their fundamental right to vote, including people with disabilities.
- This bill would help increase the knowledge and awareness of election judges so more people with disabilities get help to vote.
- It promotes a more inclusive and supportive polling place.