

# #KeepMDSenateVirtual

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

VIA EMAIL

Dear Senate President Ferguson:

We, 100+ Maryland organizations, have come together united in our call for improved access to the legislative process in Maryland. **We write with urgency to ask that you maintain virtual access to the Senate for the full duration of the 2022 legislative session.**

As you know, the pandemic required the Maryland General Assembly to adjust protocols and shift to virtual hearings. This change democratized the previous system that by design only provided access to those who have the privilege, flexibility, and resources to participate fully in Maryland's legislative process. The ability to provide oral testimony online has made participation possible for those who live far from Annapolis or who do not have access to transportation; hourly workers, who can't afford to take a day off of work; caregivers, who cannot leave children or other loved ones alone; and those who are homebound for numerous reasons.

The people of Maryland deserve an accessible legislative process. A true democracy requires it. While we appreciate the updated [Senate Session Information and Protocols](#), we urge you to adjust the plan to ensure advocates and members of the public can continue to testify remotely.

Thank you for your attention and swift action on this matter,

1. #MEAction Maryland
2. 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
3. 32BJ SEIU
4. 350MoCo
5. ACLU Montgomery County
6. ACLU of Maryland
7. Afrosocialists Caucus of Greater Baltimore DSA (Democratic Socialists of America)
8. AFT-Maryland
9. Allegany College of Maryland
10. Alzheimer's Association of Maryland

11. Anacostia Riverkeeper
12. Annapolis Green
13. Antietam Broadband
14. Apra Maryland
15. Arts Education in Maryland Schools
16. Ashlar Government Relations
17. b'more mobile
18. Baltimore Action Legal Team (BALT)
19. Baltimore Algebra Project
20. Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
21. Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
22. Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
23. Baltimore Women United
24. Bikemore
25. Blue Water Baltimore
26. BRIDGE Maryland
27. CAIR Office in MD
28. Calvert County PRISM
29. CASA
30. CASH Campaign of Maryland
31. CATA Farmworkers Support Committee
32. Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
33. Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
34. Charmington's
35. Cheder Jewish Community
36. Chesapeake Climate Action Network
37. Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
38. Citizens Policing Project
39. Clean Water Action
40. Climate Parents of Prince George's
41. Clinica Medica Primaria de Rising Sun
42. Coalition Against Policing by Hopkins
43. Coalition for Smarter Growth
44. College Democrats of Maryland
45. Columbia Democratic Club
46. Common Cause Maryland
47. Community Development Network of Maryland
48. Definitive Mechanical LLC
49. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Maryland Chapters
  - a. Alpha Gamma (Morgan State University)
  - b. Annapolis Alumnae Chapter Chapter
  - c. Baltimore Alumnae Chapter
  - d. Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter
  - e. Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter

- f. Cambridge Alumnae Chapter Chapter
  - g. Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter
  - h. Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter
  - i. Frederick County Alumnae Chapter
  - j. Harford County Alumnae Chapter
  - k. Kappa Phi (University of Maryland – College Park)
  - l. Kappa Psi (Frostburg State College)
  - m. Lambda Kappa (University of Maryland – Baltimore County)
  - n. Montgomery County (MD) Alumnae Chapter
  - o. Mu Mu (Towson State University)
  - p. Mu Psi (Johns Hopkins University)
  - q. North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter
  - r. Nu Rho (Salisbury University)
  - s. Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter
  - t. Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter
  - u. Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter
  - v. Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter
  - w. Upsilon Sigma (University of Maryland – Eastern Shore)
  - x. Zeta Delta (Bowie State College)
  - y. Zeta Epsilon (Coppin State College)
50. Diesel Technology Forum
  51. Digital Right to Repair Coalition
  52. Direct Dimensions, Inc.
  53. Disability Rights Maryland
  54. Doctors for Camp Closure
  55. DoTheMostGood
  56. Echotopia LLC
  57. ElevateHER Inc.
  58. End Medical Debt Maryland
  59. Envision Frederick County
  60. Equity Matters
  61. Explore Maryland Cannabis
  62. Food & Water Watch
  63. FreeState Justice
  64. Get Money Out - Maryland
  65. Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America
  66. Greater Baltimore Urban League
  67. Greenbelt Climate Action Network
  68. Health Care for the Homeless
  69. Homeless Persons Representation Project
  70. Howard County Climate Action
  71. Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice
  72. IMPACT Silver Spring
  73. Indivisible Central Maryland

74. Indivisible Howard County
75. Inkscale Realty
76. Innocence Project
77. Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
78. iSolon.org
79. Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
80. Jews United for Justice
81. JHU Sit-in
82. Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF)
83. Juicenet Investments LLC
84. Justice Chapel
85. Knappcraft, LLC
86. Latino Racial Justice Circle
87. Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle
88. League of Women Voters of Maryland
89. League of Women Voters Prince George's County
90. Lee Law, LLC
91. Legal Action Center
92. Locust Point Community Garden
93. Lower Shore Progressive Caucus
94. Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
95. Making Changes LLC
96. Maryland Against ICE Detention
97. Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools
98. Maryland Association for the Deaf
99. Maryland Based, UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie
100. Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
101. Maryland Center on Economic Policy
102. MD Children's Environmental Health Coalition (MD CEHC)
103. Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Inc.
104. Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
105. Maryland Coalition for Justice & Police Accountability (MCJPA)
106. Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition
107. Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
108. Maryland Family Network
109. Maryland Horse Council
110. Maryland Hunger Solutions
111. Maryland Justice Project
112. Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition
113. Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU)
114. Maryland Legislative Coalition
115. Maryland LGBT Chamber of Commerce
116. Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
117. Maryland NORML

118. Maryland NOW
119. Maryland Office of the Public Defender
120. Maryland Ornithological Society
121. Maryland Out of School Time Network
122. Maryland Pesticide Education Network
123. Maryland Philanthropy Network
124. Maryland PIRG
125. Maryland Poor People's Campaign
126. Maryland Public Health Association
127. Maryland Rise
128. Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.
129. Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
130. Maryland Votes for Animals, Incl
131. Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
132. Marylanders for Patient Rights
133. MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
134. MDDC Press Association
135. MEC, Inc.
136. Middletown Valley Bank
137. MoCoWoMen
138. Moms Demand Action, Maryland Chapter
139. Montgomery County Democratic Socialists of America
140. Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club
141. Mothers On The Move
142. Muslim Voices Coalition
143. NAACP Maryland State Conference
144. National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
145. National Nurses United
146. New Vision Youth Service
147. North Bethesda Neighborhoods
148. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
149. Nzuri Malkia Birth Cooperative
150. Onyx Psychiatry & Wellness Practice
151. Open Society Institute-Baltimore
152. Organizing Black
153. Our Maryland
154. Our Revolution Maryland
155. Out For Justice
156. Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County, MD
157. People On the Go of Maryland
158. Physician-Parent Caregivers
159. Progressive Democrats of Howard County
160. Progressive Harford County
161. Progressive Maryland

162. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
163. Public Justice Center
164. Racial Justice NOW
165. RCV Maryland
166. Rebuild Maryland Coalition
167. Represent Maryland
168. Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc
169. SEIU Local 500
170. Self Directed Advocacy Network of Md, Inc
171. Shaare Tefila Congregation
172. Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
173. Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
174. Silver Spring Justice Coalition
175. Smart on Pesticides Coalition
176. South Baltimore Community Land Trust
177. Southern Maryland Youth Leadership Foundation
178. Spence | Brierley
179. Start School Later
180. Strong Future Maryland
181. SURJ Baltimore
182. Takoma Park Mobilization
183. The Arc Maryland
184. The Choice Program at UMBC
185. The Coordinating Center
186. The Human Trafficking Prevention Project
187. The JustUs Initiative
188. The Talking Drum Incorporated
189. The Women's Law Center of Maryland
190. Trail Riders of Today
191. UMD School of Law Justice for Victims of Crime Clinic
192. US Green Building Council
193. W3VVV Industries
194. Washington County Chamber of Commerce
195. Waterkeepers Chesapeake