

April 15th, 2021

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

We are writing to you as involved and engaged young constituents of the state of Maryland. We are students that come from a variety of backgrounds and regions of the state, from western Maryland, to the eastern shore, to the city of Baltimore, and from Black to Brown to white.

We still have a lot of work to do to expand access to the vote. The Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act (HB156/SB283) is an important step in the right direction. Young people are new to voting, and without support into the often difficult transition, many end up not registering or not casting their ballots. In the 2020 general election, national turnout of voters under 29 was over 10% lower than all eligible voters. In Maryland in 2018, only 54% of eligible voters between 18-24 registered to vote, compared to 66% of all Marylanders. And that is only looking at youth populations. In the 2016 elections, only 46% of service men and women cast their ballot. These issues have a common theme: lack of access.

Voting should be ground zero, and it needs to be as easy as so. The SMVEA will help to close the gap. We urge you, Governor Hogan, to sign the SMVEA into law. It's needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Full Name	University	Title(s)
Jenna Ning Griffith Newlin	Frostburg State University	Vice President of Finance, At-Large Senator
Delanie Blubaugh	Frostburg State University	Student Affairs Committee Chair, Student Government Association Co-Chair, University System of Maryland

Jericho Yantz	Frostburg State University	
Jessica Thayer	Frostburg State University	Student Government Association Vice President
Robert Smallwood	Frostburg State University	Black Student Alliance President
Brianae Edwards-Evans	Frostburg State University	
Lukas Tyler O'Brien	Frostburg State University	Senator O'Brien (FSU SGA)
Max Hancock	Frostburg State University	SGA senator, VP of Finance of Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity
Allison Russo	Frostburg State University	Resident Assistant, Student Government Association Senator
Madison Davis	Frostburg State University	President of the American Cancer Society On Campus
Lubna Azmi	Johns Hopkins University	Student Vote Ambassador
Irene Kang	Johns Hopkins University	Student Vote Ambassador
Oghenenyoreme Onovae	Johns Hopkins University	
Raymond Perez	Johns Hopkins University	Vice Chair of the College Democrats of America Black Caucus
Rachel Huang	Johns Hopkins University	Student Vote Ambassador
Olufemi Agabalogun	Johns Hopkins University	
Maverick Espinosa	Johns Hopkins University	Nu rho psi
Casey Levitt	Johns Hopkins University	E-Board Real Food Hopkins
Aditi Kishore	Johns Hopkins University	Treasurer of the women of mechanical engineering network, department liaison of american society of mechanical engineering JHU chapter
Joanna Maressa	Johns Hopkins University	President of the Materials Research Society at JHU

Robab Vaziri	Johns Hopkins University	
Min-Seo Kim	Johns Hopkins University	Hopkins Democrats, Hopkins Newsletter
Chad Leo	Salisbury University	Secretary-Treasurer, Young Democrats of America Disability Issues Caucus
Paige Trzaskawka	Towson University	Director of Legislative Affairs for TU's SGA
Jayden Johnstone	Towson University	Member of the Freshman Council
Lyniece Wheeler	Towson University	Student Government Association: President Pro Tempore
Jordy Diaz	Towson University	Northeastern Regional Director for the College Democrats of America
Zikiyaa Moody	Towson University	Director of New Student Development (SGA)
Jordan DeVeaux	Towson University	SGA Vice President
Elizabeth Rink	Towson University	Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority - President, Student Government Association - (Senator) Appropriations Chair, Greek Ambassador for Fraternity & Sorority Life Office
Zara Freeland	Towson University	Towson SGA
Jonathan Townes	Towson University	Andrew Goodman Foundation Team Leader
Jackson Dacy	University of Maryland College Park	
Benjamin Baitman	University of Maryland College Park	Director of Government Affairs, UMD SGA
Dan Alpert	University of Maryland College Park	Student Body President
Lauren A. Wyatt	University of Baltimore	Lead Ambassador, UB Votes; Co-Chair, USMSC Student Civic Engagement Committee; Secretary, USMSC Government Relations Committee
Trevor Tormann	Loyola University	Student Body President-Elect