



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

Date: 15 September 2025

Good evening.

I am Stu Kohn from downtown Scaggsville testifying against CR167. As President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA our Board is in full agreement with Paul Verchinski's most compelling testimony as to why you should vote NO on this Resolution.

Our Board would appreciate you to consider adopting legislation to enable your constituents the opportunity to review any applicable fiscal analysis or audit reports associated with all proposed Bills and Resolutions at the same time they are introduced to the public, two weeks prior to public hearings. This information is imperative to have and would be appreciated especially for those wishing to testify to provide ample time to review and prepare detailed testimony.

In the case of this Resolution, the audit report was not made available to the public until this past Thursday evening as was the case for other Bills and Resolutions. Having just 3 days prior to the hearing is not a reasonable time to review and include in testimony. If the Audit department cannot handle the workload because of the volume of Legislation which is indicative of this evening, then it is incumbent of this Council and the Administration to limit the number of legislative Bills and Resolutions in the future.

In April 2025, HCCA testified Against CB28-2025 to amend the code which required the fiscal analysis for legislation to be submitted and processed by the County Council Administrator. Our testimony suggested the fiscal analysis be available to residents more than one day ahead of public hearings as stated in the legislation on page 2, lines 23 and 24. This should be amended and appreciated by those wanting to have the opportunity to strengthen their testimony.

HCCA was proud to suggest a recommendation a few years ago to the previous County Council by having all proposed legislation available to the public two weeks prior to public hearings. This was accomplished as is the practice today. Hopefully the same will be done by you adopting our recommendation concerning audit reports or fiscal analysis for all applicable legislation. If such a Bill was introduced, it should pass unanimously. Show us you believe your constituents should have the opportunity to review the reports in a timely manner.

We ask anyone of you to introduce and become sponsors of a Bill to have our suggestion become reality? It would be in the best interests of all your constituents.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn