



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 337 – VEHICLE LAWS – BICYCLES and PEDESTRIANS – USE OF CROSSWALKS

POSITION: SUPPORT

BY: Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng Co-Presidents

DATE: February 7, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports SB 337 as because the bill increases the safety of its Maryland residents. By clarifying the operating rules for a motorist when encountering pedestrians or bicyclists at a crosswalk, both the motorist and those using a crosswalk benefit.

Crossing a roadway at a crosswalk is to be encouraged for both its safety and management of traffic. By stipulating obligations for drivers as well as pedestrians and bicyclists it explains how each party may safely and legally proceed to make our roads safer for all.

Bicyclists are often particularly vulnerable to traffic collisions at crosswalks as the recent fatality in Montgomery County illustrated. This bill encourages the safe usage of alternate forms of transportation that LWVMD positions support and promotes bicycling and pedestrians as a safer form of transportation.

We urge a favorable report on SB 337.