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**Testimony on MoCo Delegation Bill MC 2-21  
Hearing December 1, 2020 / 7pm**

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) **supports bill MC 2-21** that authorizes the maximum speed limit with stipulations for both inside and outside urban districts in Montgomery County.

- The intent of this authorization is **to provide greater safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, vehicles and their drivers.**

Why does the county need to have speed limits changed in some places?

- The number of pedestrian deaths in 2020 has already exceeded those of 2019 despite the adoption of "Complete Streets."
- Clear signage of speed limits in various areas is provided in the bill. Such clarity is essential.
- Recently the District of Columbia lowered the speed limit for the entire jurisdiction to 20 mph unless otherwise posted. Montgomery County directly adjoins this area of lowered speed limits.

LWVMC believes that a coordination among state and county agencies will increase the availability of safer roads for pedestrians and provide more options than just motorized travel. These options to driving are increasingly important as our roads become more congested. Rules and management of roads should reflect local concerns.

We fully recognize that the health and vitality of a community depends on residents being accessible to all manner of activity: e.g., work, day care, schools, shops, and pleasure.

- The trend in this County is to encourage greater numbers of pedestrians and bicyclists, but roads in the past weren't designed to nor do they necessarily have an appropriate speed limit for safe usage for everyone.
- As the county becomes more densely populated, effective evaluation measures and changes should be made available for use on roads.
- No matter how one travels, everyone is a pedestrian for some portion of the journey.

With this bill, Montgomery County is attempting not only to improve upon traffic statistics, but also to have a more comfortable and livable area by providing more flexibility in the maximum speed limit law.

**The LWVMC urges a favorable report on MC 2-21.**

From: Co-presidents Diane Hibino, Kathy McGuire; Transportation chair Bee Ditzler