



### **Election Law -Automatic Voter Registration – State Correctional Facilities**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Howard County

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck, co-facilitator Defend Democracy Team

Position: **FAVORABLE**

**February 9, 2024**

I am submitting testimony in favor of House Bill 627 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is a 700+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving campaign finance and election integrity.

This bill would expand Automatic Voter Registration to correctional facilities, designating the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services as an automatic voter registration agency. It would require them to register qualified individuals to vote when they are released.

The formerly incarcerated have many things to catch up on and put in place when they are released, and voting may not be at the top of that list. This takes one item off that list and reminds them that they are now allowed to vote.

We strongly support this bill.