



TESTIMONY FOR HB0115

Election Law – Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities – Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: N/A

Person Submitting: Rebecca Turner

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0115 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0115 takes an important and practical step toward strengthening Maryland's democracy by ensuring that individuals released from state correctional facilities have their voter registration automatically restored. Under current law, these individuals regain the right to vote upon release, but many are unaware of that fact or face administrative barriers that prevent them from re-entering the electorate. HB0115 removes those barriers by creating a clear, automatic process that restores voter registration as part of the reentry transition.

This bill recognizes a simple truth: people returning to their communities should be able to participate fully in civic life. Voting is one of the most fundamental ways individuals reconnect with their communities, exercise their voice, and contribute to the decisions that shape their lives. By ensuring that voter registration is restored without delay or confusion, HB0115 supports successful reentry and strengthens civic engagement across the state.

HB0115 directly advances the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work is rooted in expanding democratic participation, promoting transparency, and ensuring that every Marylander has a meaningful voice in their government. When returning

citizens are able to vote without unnecessary obstacles, our democracy becomes more representative and more just. This legislation reinforces the values of equity and civic empowerment that guide our coalition's work and helps build a healthier, more inclusive democracy for all Marylanders.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0115.