



TESTIMONY FOR HB0115
Election Law - Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities -
Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: IndivisibleHoCoMD

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck, Co-Facilitator Defend Democracy Action Team

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in favor of HB0115 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is a 1500+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving election integrity, campaign finance, and ethics in government.

HB0115 strengthens Maryland's democracy by automatically restoring voter registration for individuals released from state correctional facilities. Although voting rights are restored upon release, many face confusion or administrative barriers. This bill creates a clear, automatic process as part of reentry, removing unnecessary obstacles. By enabling returning citizens to participate fully in civic life, HB0115 supports successful reentry, expands democratic participation, and promotes equity. Ensuring eligible voters can engage without delay makes Maryland's democracy more inclusive, representative, and just.

We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report.