



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

## Anne Arundel County Branch

*"Freedom Fighters for a New Century"*

**The NAACP of Anne Arundel County endorses**

### **HB 51 - Election Law - Individuals Released From Correctional Facilities - Voter Registration**

#### **Executive Committee**

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The bill is an important step in the restoration of humanity and citizenship to people who have served their time. This political moment requires us to have an "all hands on deck" strategy to build the political will of all lovers of humanity. This bill is an act of mercy.

In the biblical text, a writer speaks of love keeping no record of wrongs. If we consider love to be a concept and mercy to be an act or emotion within that concept, this is an opportunity for a democracy, as a society of informed participants in their own self-governance, to provide one of the most critical aspects of human mercy back to the prisoner.

After taking their freedom of movement,  
restricting their freedom of thought,  
restricting their freedom of religion,  
restricting their freedom of communication with their friends and family,  
restricting their ability to work for themselves,  
and having them sit still in a place that has them surrounded by people who are holding on to their last hope and some who have lost it, a democracy is required to be merciful.

This bill could help to provide freedom to those who may have been in prison physically and that is the least of what we are required by our creator to do. It could give a sense of identity to the prisoner who is seeking to regain order in their troubled souls.

However, it could be an opportunity for certain individuals to view this as a method of control. Therefore, it must be coupled with other voting initiatives to provide returning citizens and ex-felons with a full ability to exercise their potential as citizens in a democratic society.

The NAACP encourages you to vote for this bill.