



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB51

**ELECTION LAW – INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM CORRECTIONAL
FACILITIES – VOTER REGISTRATION**

JANUARY 16, 2020 (Ways and Means Committee)

Madam Chair Kaiser and Mr. Vice Chair Alonzo Washington for the record, and to all members of the Ways and Means Committee, I respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB51.

Effective March 10, 2016, if you have been convicted of a felony and have completed serving a court-ordered sentence, you are eligible to register to vote. The purpose of HB51 is to require correctional facilities to provide an inmate who has completed his or her sentence for a felony conviction with a voter registration card and voter registration information to let the released inmate know that they have a right to vote. Given that the law was modified almost four years ago, it is most certain that some inmates who are released do not know that (1) their rights to vote are restored immediately upon release and/or (2) that they must re-register in order to vote.

HB51 proposes to correct this lack of knowledge.

PLEASE VOTE FAVORABLE ON HB51.