



**House Ways and Means Committee
February 11, 2020**

**House Bill 568
Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 568. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the collateral damage caused by our drug policies. Our work has included fighting for the restoration of people’s right to vote. HB 568 ensures that people’s voting rights are not suspended while they are incarcerated.

People who are incarcerated maintain many of their constitutional rights. As participation in our democratic system of government is one of our most cherished rights, there must be a compelling reason to deny people access to it. The data show disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on people of color, and throughout U.S. history, have been intended to do so. Allowing people who are in jails and prisons to vote will help reverse this impact and help those who will be returning to their communities remain active members.

We urge your support of House Bill 568.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.