



Nick J. Mosby, *President*
Baltimore City Council

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4804 • Fax: (410) 539-0647

February 4, 2021

To: **Members of the Senate Education, Health, & Environmental
Affairs Committee
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Re: **SB 224 - Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter
Registration and Voting**

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Pinsky, Chair Smith and Honorable Members,

I am writing to express my **support** for Senate Bill 224, Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting. The bill makes several overdue changes to our election administration processes to ensure that Maryland residents who are involved in the criminal justice system but are eligible to vote have the ability to do so as well as knowledge of their rights. I was proud to sponsor similar legislation in the House of Delegates during the 2020 session that passed through the House chamber overwhelmingly.

SB 224 requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to inform individuals who are no longer incarcerated that they have the right to vote, and to provide individuals released from DPSCS custody a voter registration form. It further directs the State Board of Elections develop and implement a program so that individuals who are in custody but eligible to vote may register and cast their ballots. As I testified last year, this would extend ballot access to approximately 9,000 individuals in pretrial detention and 15,000 incarcerated persons across the state of Maryland. This bill helps those currently and recently incarcerated maintain connections to their communities and it gives effect to a decision the General Assembly made in 2015 to expand voting rights.

I want to thank Senator West for his willingness to reach across the aisle and once again introduce this very important piece of legislation. I also want to thank the members of this committee for their attention to this bill and respectfully ask for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 224.

Sincerely,

Nick J. Mosby
President, Baltimore City Council