



**Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
February 4, 2021**

**Senate Bill 224
Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 224. 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. SB 224 will improve education efforts when it comes to ensuring people who are released from jails and prisons and those on parole and probation know their rights.

This bill will also ensure that people who are incarcerated who are eligible to vote know they retain this constitutional right and have access to the ballot. Participation in our democratic system of government is one of our most cherished rights. The data show disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on people of color, and throughout U.S. history, have been intended to do so.

Supporting people who are not convicted of a crime to vote and educate people leaving correctional facilities about their rights will help address this impact and help those returning to their communities fully re-engage.

We urge your support of Senate Bill 224.

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.