



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 222 -  
*Value My Vote Act*  
House Ways and Means & Judiciary Committees  
January 19, 2021**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. The JCRC recognizes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as one of the most important and most effective pieces of civil rights legislation in our Nation's history. The agency has a long tradition of expanding voter access and combatting voter suppression.

Given these principles, the JCRC strongly supports HB 222. This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide every individual being released from a correctional facility with a voter registration application and documentation that the individual's voting rights have been restored. The bill also requires the State Board of Elections to adopt certain regulations to inform eligible voters incarcerated of upcoming elections and how to exercise the right to vote. For these reasons, we ask the committees to support HB 222.