

TESTIMONY FOR SB 647

ELECTION LAW - INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS - VOTER HOTLINE AND ELIGIBILITY (VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL ACT)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Muse

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Organization Submitting: Indivisible Howard County

Person Submitting: Marijane Monck - Co-Facilitator Defend Democracy Team

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting testimony in favor of Senate Bill 647 on behalf of Indivisible Howard County.

Indivisible Howard County is an 900+ member organization comprising numerous action teams. The Defend Democracy Team works on issues involving campaign finance and election integrity.

The Voting Rights for All Act expands voting access by establishing a voter hotline for incarcerated individuals and allowing people with felony convictions who are currently serving to vote. History tells us that discriminatory practices have suppressed Black voters. This act is a step toward putting to right past injustices to ensure ALL citizens have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report.