

Dear **Members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 45**. I am **testifying in support of HB0710, the Voting Rights for All Act**.

Americans have a long history of believing that being convicted of a crime makes you unsuited to the responsibilities of citizenship, including voting. But the idea that anyone should be barred from voting is deeply undemocratic. In addition, the historic over-prosecution of Black communities that leads to their over-representation in our prisons means that Black Marylanders are disproportionately stripped of their right to vote. Over the past two decades, Maryland has taken important steps toward fixing these inequities and today I urge you to take the final step to make sure that **every adult Marylander** has the ability to vote.

HB0710 would, first and foremost, return the power to vote to our neighbors who are serving sentences. It would also require the State Board of Elections to establish a voter hotline for incarcerated persons, allowing them access information and assistance in the voting process. This will ensure that people who are incarcerated can still meaningfully exercise their right to vote. Any costs associated with the hotline should be at least partially offset by the costs saved when the Board of Elections no longer has to monitor criminal convictions across several courts and ensure people who are convicted of felonies are removed from the rolls.

Maryland should close the book on the racist legacy of felon disenfranchisement once and for all. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB0710, the Voting Rights for All Act**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brytani Fraser

Baltimore, MD 21214

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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