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Legislative District 20  
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Vice Chair, Ways and Means  
Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations  
Committee

Chair

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2025

**House Bill 710 - Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility  
(Voting Rights for All Act)**

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce **House Bill 710 - Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility (Voting Rights for All Act)**, which would ensure the right to vote for everyone in Maryland, regardless of criminal convictions.

This bill expands voting rights throughout the State of Maryland by repealing incarceration status as a barrier to voting. House Bill 710 will require the State Board of Elections to provide a toll-free voter hotline for incarcerated individuals to receive information about voting, request election-related materials, and report voting rights violations. This will ensure that incarcerated individuals have better access to information about their voting rights.

House Bill 710 also addresses the ongoing issue of voting barriers for Black citizens of Maryland, and they are the most adversely affected by mass incarceration. Currently, 71% of incarcerated individuals in Maryland are Black/African American despite making up only 30% of the state's population.

To reflect our goals of being a true representative democracy, it is vital that all individuals in the State of Maryland are granted the right to vote, regardless of incarceration status.

House Bill 710 will give more Marylanders the right to participate in the democratic process. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 710 - Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility (Voting Rights for All Act)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins