

**Testimony to the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 0089 Voting Rights for All Act – Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals
– Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Muse

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Marna Brown-Krausz, Member: Defend Democracy Team, Indivisible HoCo

Date: February 11, 2025

On behalf of our 1700+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of SB 0089, also known as the Voting Rights for All Act. This Bill modifies existing Sections of the Election Law. Indivisible HoCoMD is an informal group of citizens in Howard County, MD, registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy.

We believe this bill will strengthen the right to vote in Maryland by expanding voting access to citizen residents of Maryland who are incarcerated.

The bill requires 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. The bill also requires the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Correctional Facilities, to adopt regulations for the administration of the voter hotline. The bill further eliminates the exclusion of incarcerated individuals convicted of felonies from voting in a primary election in which candidates are nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least 18 years of age.

We believe there is great support for this bill nationwide. Polling from The Sentencing Project, Stand Up America, Common Cause, and State Innovation Exchange reveal that most Americans believe the right to vote should be an inalienable right.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on HB 0089 and its House Bill counterpart, HB 0052.

Thank you for your consideration.