



## OUT FOR JUSTICE

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB52/HB89

#### **Election Law - Incarcerated Individuals - Voter Hotline and Eligibility (Voting Rights for All Act)**

TO: Senator Charles E. Sydnor, III, Chair, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: **Todric Speaks**, Behind the Wall Member of Out For Justice Member

DATE: February 11, 2026

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to you from behind prison walls to express my strong support for SB0089/HB0052 – the Voting Rights for All Act. This testimony comes directly from lived experience and from a place of hope, accountability, and belief in rehabilitation.

Every day that men and women wake up incarcerated, we are reminded of the harm caused by our past actions. We carry the weight of the families we left behind and the people we hurt. Many of us want to do better. We want to repair what we can and be part of positive change. Yet one of the most meaningful ways to contribute to society—the right to vote—is denied to us.

Laws passed at the state and federal level affect us every single day. They determine our sentences, our conditions of confinement, our access to rehabilitation, and our chances at a second opportunity. Despite this, the people most impacted by these laws are silenced. Allowing incarcerated people to vote would give us a voice in decisions that directly shape our lives and futures.

Voting is not about excusing past mistakes—it is about responsibility and rehabilitation. When people are trusted with a voice, they are encouraged to think beyond themselves, to engage with their communities, and to invest in the future. Taking part in the democratic process reinforces the idea that we are still members of society and that our growth matters.

If incarcerated people were allowed to vote, elected officials would have to acknowledge us as constituents. They would have to listen to our concerns, understand the realities inside prison walls, and consider policies that promote fairness, accountability, and public safety—not just punishment. This is how real change happens.



For too long, extreme sentences and harmful policies have been passed without input from those living with the consequences. History has shown us that when voices are excluded, injustice thrives. As we have seen in recent years, making your voice heard is power. For those of us behind the wall, voting is the most direct and meaningful way to be heard.

Passing the Voting Rights for All Act (SB0089/HB0052) sends a powerful message: that rehabilitation is real, that democracy includes everyone, and that men and women behind the wall still matter. It affirms that no one is beyond redemption and that participation—not exclusion—is the path to a safer and more just society.

I respectfully urge you to support and pass this bill. Our voices matter. Our futures matter. And our right to vote matters.

Sincerely,

Todric Speaks #299-106