



February 9, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chairman
And Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chair Wells and Members:

RE: **HB 0052** – Election Law -- Incarcerated Individuals -- Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility (Voting Rights Act for All) -- **UNFAVORABLE**

The 1,300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly oppose HB0052 that will grant convicted felons the right to vote while incarcerated.

- Loss of voting rights is a form of punishment, one of the main purposes of sentencing.
- The loss of one's right to vote while incarcerated for a felony conviction is a punitive measure intended to discourage the incarcerated offender from committing future crimes.
- Depending on the degree to which the offender values the right to vote, the loss of that opportunity provides an incentive for a successful reintegration into the community upon release from incarceration.
- Felons sentenced to long periods of incarceration do not have the same experiences and community influences that non-incarcerated individuals have. This greatly restricts their understanding of what is happening in the community, constraining their ability to make an informed decision when voting.
- Incarceration does not represent a permanent loss of voting rights. That opportunity is restored upon release from incarceration

We believe that a felon's loss of voting rights is an important component of the punitive purpose of incarceration, and encourage an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **HB0052**.

Sincerely,

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