



TESTIMONY FOR HB0052
Election Law - Incarcerated Individuals - Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility
(Voting Rights for All Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0052 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland has done a lot to ensure that voting is accessible to anyone who wants to exercise that right and is qualified to vote. Maryland's prison population has a harder time getting registered to vote and getting notifications related to voting. If we are to have everyone participate in elections, we need to ensure that we make voting accessible to our eligible prison population.

This bill 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 is a simple thing, but one that will allow more people to exercise their right to vote.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.