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Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 525

**Bill Title: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and State Board of Elections-
Centralized Booking Facility - Ballot Drop Box**

Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 – House Judiciary Committee

Chair: The Honorable Luke Clippinger; Vice Chair: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbary

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 525. In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 340 and House Bill 980, Election Law - Voting Rights - Ex-Felons, which simplified the process to vote for those who had been formerly incarcerated. The bill became law in 2016 after the General Assembly overrode the Governor's Veto. In doing so, our Legislature increased access to democracy to thousands of Marylanders. A concern remains, however, regarding those who are currently incarcerated, who are eligible to vote. It became evident during the 2020 election that there are thousands of eligible voters currently in our correctional system who are disenfranchised.

Senate Bill 525 would require the Baltimore City centralized booking facility to disseminate written information on voter registration and voting instructions directly to each eligible voter incarcerated at said facility. The Bill would further require the Baltimore City Board of Elections, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to establish the Baltimore City Central Booking Facility as a ballot drop box location.

In efforts to ensure that the fundamental right of voting is as inclusive as possible, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 525.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray
State Senator