

I write to express support for the restoration of voting rights to incarcerated people. It's important that those of us who write and administer the law especially remain accountable to all citizens, and those who are incarcerated are greatly impacted by the decisions we make. We dehumanize everyone and detract from the legitimacy of our laws when we disenfranchise those who are incarcerated, especially given that our criminal system so disproportionately impacts people of color and the poor and given that we our current system of mass incarceration so exceeds that of other developed countries in scope without a commensurate benefit to public safety. Denying voting rights to those who are incarcerated is punitive and indefensible. This bill is a necessary movement toward a system that deserves the name "justice."

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appellate judge and constituent of District 18