

Good afternoon and thank you

People from all parties and walks of life support second chances, including law enforcement, faith-based groups, families, businesses, and a large majority of Virginians.

In recent polls 66% of those polled believed that people who've served their time should be given the opportunity to vote.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is a coalition of more than 25,000 people of faith and goodwill. All faiths believe in restoration. All faiths offer a path to redemption. One is not forever punished through the perpetual condemnation of their acts if they seek a second chance. A second chance—not to do wrong, but a second chance to get it right, to do right by others, themselves, and their communities.

This constitutional amendment gives all people who have been formerly incarcerated the ability to earn back their voting access, one of the bedrocks of to being fully, engaged members of their community. This constitutional amendment embodies the principle of restoration.

We urge the passage of HB130 / HJ9 out of subcommittee to the full committee and onto the House floor. Ultimately, we should let the people decide on their November ballot.