

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
California State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: ACA 6 (McCarty) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

The Pacific Beach Democratic Club writes in strong support of ACA 6, which places a state constitutional amendment on the ballot that restores voting rights to Californians serving a period of parole in California. It's time for California to join the growing national movement to strengthen our democracy by ensuring that everyone - regardless of their past involvement with the criminal legal system - can have their voices counted.

The Pacific Beach Democratic Club has recently adopted a political action focus on criminal justice reform. We believe that ACA 6 is a critical component of California's efforts to be a leader in addressing the racial, economic and disenfranchisement issues that grow out of antiquated criminal justice policies.

Nationwide, more than 4.5 million people are barred from voting because of a felony conviction. Nearly 50,000 of these individuals are disenfranchised because they are currently on parole in California. At a time when our national democratic institutions are under threat, California has a responsibility to do more to prevent the silencing of formerly incarcerated people.

Voting is a fundamental right of citizenship. ACA 6 will amend the California Constitution to ensure that Californians on parole can fully participate in our democracy. Giving people returning home from prison access to civic participation is one of the most effective ways to assure their successful reintegration home. Blocking people on parole from voting means our neighbors who are working, paying taxes, and raising families in this state are deprived of the ability to have a say in the policies and representatives who shape their daily lives. This is out of step with our values as Californians.

For these reasons, the Pacific Beach Democratic Club strongly supports ACA 6 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



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