



THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BRONX COUNTY

DARCEL D. CLARK

June 4, 2019

Senator Zellnor Myrie
New York State Senate
Chair, Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 903
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine
New York State Assembly
Chair, Standing Committee on Election Law
Legislative Office Building, Room 715
Albany, NY 12248

Re: S.1931 / A.4987

Dear Chairs Zellnor Myrie and Charles Lavine:

I write to express my support for S.1931 / A. 4987, a bill that would restore voting rights to New Yorkers who are re-entering our communities after having served a prison sentence. As Bronx County District Attorney, I have made reentry one of my top priorities and this bill furthers our obligation to support those coming home.

Successful reentry promotes healthier, safer, and more productive communities, and it is proven to reduce recidivism rates. Depriving Reentering New Yorkers the right to vote accomplishes nothing. It creates a bifurcated class system and alienates them from our community.

In addition, this bill will work to reduce the disparate impacts of Black and Latino community members, who account for three-fourths of the people who are on parole in New York.

The fabric of our community is based on the principle of robust participation in our democracy. While I commend Governor Cuomo for restoring voting rights to reentering individuals through his executive order, this is not a permanent solution. This bill ensures that fundamental rights remain intact regardless of who resides in the Governor's Mansion.

I am available to discuss this bill and my support in more detail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Darcel D. Clark