



## **Testimony in Support of HJ 546**

### **Restoration of Voting Rights Constitutional Amendment**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) supports HJ 546, restoring voter access to all Virginians. Enshrining in the Constitution the disenfranchisement of entire classes of people runs in direct contrast to the cornerstone of democracy – voting rights. The United States has a long history of struggling to overcome voter disenfranchisement and voter suppression initiatives. Our nation also continues to struggle to fix our flawed criminal justice system. Both issues disproportionately target and harm minority and impoverished communities. Virginia's constitution, by disenfranchising those caught in our flawed justice system, compounds the injustice. HJ 546 gives us the opportunity to break this connection and strengthen the democratic process.