

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
One strong united voice for Minnesota workers

300 Hardman Avenue South
South St. Paul, MN 55075
Council5@afscmemn.org



Phone (651) 450-4990
Fax (651) 455-1311
Toll Free (800) 652-9791

January 10, 2023

Representative Mike Freiberg
Chair, House Elections Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 28 – Right to vote restored to individuals convicted of a felony upon completion of any term of incarceration imposed and executed by a court for the offense.

Chair Mike Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

As a union of more than 43,000 working people, AFSCME Council 5 expresses our support for Representative Cedrick Frazier's bill House File (HF) 28.

HF 28 would restore the right to vote to individuals after they have completed their time of incarceration as ordered by a court.

A critical component of our public safety and corrections work in the State of Minnesota is to hold offenders accountable to their actions and to also rehabilitate individuals as they prepare to reenter society. A critically important right we have as citizens is to express our deeply felt beliefs through our right to vote in elections and having a say in which political candidates we believe share our values and principles. For too long, many in our state have been left out of the voting process after they have completed their time of incarceration.

Unions are democracy-builders. And we are on the leading edge of ensuring as many legal-age citizens of our state express their right to vote free from harassment, targeting, and disenfranchisement. If we truly wish to secure and help to rehabilitate offenders after they leave incarceration, then ensuring they can participate in our democracy is an important, productive, and meaningful way of participating in societal good.

We encourage you to support HF 28. Thank you.

In solidarity,

Julie Bleyhl
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO

Ethan Vogel
Legislative Director
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO

Max Hall
External Relations and Planning Director
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO