Criminal Disenfranchisement in Georgia

Presentation to the Senate Study Committee on Revising Voting Rights for Nonviolent Felons

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The Southern Center for Human Rights is working for:

Equality, Dignity, and Justice

for people who are involved in the criminal legal system in Georgia.
No person who has been convicted of a **felony involving moral turpitude** may register, remain registered or vote **except upon completion of the sentence.**
The Problems with “Moral Turpitude”

- Possible Racist Motives
- Vague
- Meaningless
Sentence Completion & Debt
Improving Access to the Ballot Reduces Recidivism

Of those released from prison nearly 1 in 3 will return to prison and 2 in 3 will be rearrested within 3 years.

A 1% reduction in recidivism saves Georgia $6 to $7 million in reduced costs of incarceration.
Proposals to Clarify Criminal Disenfranchisement in Georgia

1. Limit criminal disenfranchisement to a list of specific offenses

1. Allow people convicted of a disqualifying offense to be able to vote upon sentence completion regardless of outstanding criminal justice debt