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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 577 – Justice Reinvestment Act – Modifications**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of **House Bill 577 – Justice Reinvestment Act – Modifications**.

This legislation makes various modifications and technical corrections to the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) passed in 2016. These changes are based on requests from various stakeholders, including the Judicial Conference, executive departments, state's attorneys, and the Office of the Public Defender. The majority of the modifications are technical and do not represent substantive changes. Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

1. Correctional Services Article: §7-401 – adds PAROLEE or THE INMATE in appropriate places
2. Criminal Law Article §5-601: Review of existing mandatory minimum sentences. Changes SUBMITTED TO to FILED WITH regarding the request for a review of an existing mandatory minimum sentence and indicates that there will be a hearing. The Judicial Conference, states attorneys and Office of the Public Defender all agreed the intent was for there to be a hearing.
3. Criminal Law Article §5-612.1 Clarifies that the request for review of an existing mandatory minimum sentence includes a sentence for possession of cocaine less than 448 grams. This conforms with our equalizing the amount of cocaine with federal law in the JRA. Provides for the same review process as other requests for review of existing mandatory minimum sentences.
4. Criminal Law Article §5-620: Makes penalty for possession of drug paraphernalia consistent with penalty for drug possession. This corrects an oversight in JRA.
5. Criminal Procedure Article §6-223 and §6-224: Technical clarification regarding graduated sanctions for violation of probation.

6. Criminal Procedure Article §10-110: Technical correction to expungement provision. Moves §10-502 of the Criminal Law Article – (Bigamy) from (a)(1)(xiii) to (a)(2)(iv).
7. State Government Article §9-3202: Adds two people to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board – two representing a community advocacy organization stipulating that one is appointed by the Speaker and one is appointed by the President.
8. Transportation Article §16-303(h) and (i): Technical clarification regarding making driving while suspended not subject to incarceration but rather subject to only a fine.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 577.