

February 28, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to express the Maryland Workforce Association, an association of Maryland's 13 local workforce boards, support for **Senate Bill 1036: Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services - Establishment**. The measure will create a task force focused on the expansion of services for returning citizens.

The Association would also like to express its appreciation to the sponsor of this measure for including three representatives of "county workforce development programs" on the task force. The Local Workforce Development Boards in Maryland provide services focused on individuals with barriers to employment. Some of those individuals are those who are returning citizens. In fact, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development in Baltimore City has a job center at Mondawmin Mall focused on providing services to returning citizens. This is just one example of an innovative program that the Local Workforce Development Boards provide in Maryland.

In short, we look forward to lending our expertise to this task force and respectfully request the Committee's favorable consideration of this bill. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Brandon Butler, MWA's Executive Director for any questions or comments about our position. He can be reached at 240.434.5524, or [mwaexecdirector@gmail.com](mailto:mwaexecdirector@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President  
Maryland Workforce Association

#### **MWA Members**

**Anne Arundel County**  
Anne Arundel Workforce  
Development Corporation  
*Kirkland Murray, Executive Director*

**Baltimore City**  
Mayor's Office of Employment  
Development  
*MacKenzie Garvin, Director*

**Baltimore County**  
Baltimore County Department of  
Economic and Workforce  
Development  
*Neishall Schyler, WIOA Ops.  
Manager*

**Carroll County**  
Carroll County Workforce  
Development  
*Heather Lee Powell, Manager*

**Frederick County**  
Frederick County Workforce  
Services  
*Michelle Day, Director*

**Howard County**  
Howard County Office of Workforce  
Development  
*Francine Trout, Director*

**Lower Shore**  
Lower Shore Workforce Alliance  
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,  
Counties)  
*Leslie Porter-Cabell, Workforce  
Director*

**Montgomery County** WorkSource  
Montgomery, Inc. *Anthony  
Featherstone, Executive Director*

**Prince George's County**  
Prince George's County Workforce  
Development Board *Walter  
Simmons, Executive Director*

**Southern Maryland**  
Southern Maryland Job Source  
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's  
Counties)  
*Ruthy Davis, Director*

**Susquehanna Region**  
Susquehanna Workforce Network,  
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)  
*Kimberly Justus, Executive Director*

**Upper Shore**  
Upper Shore Workforce Investment  
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)  
*Dan Schneckeburger, Executive  
Director*

**Western Maryland**  
Western Maryland Consortium  
(Allegany, Garrett &  
Washington Counties)  
*Deborah Gilbert, Executive Director*