



880 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21201

TEL (443) 439-4100

FAX (443) 759-6384

[www.rocainc.org](http://www.rocainc.org)

Date: February 2, 2024  
Bill # / Title: HB488 – Qualifying Nonprofit Organizations – Training and Reentry Services  
Committee: Judiciary  
Position: Support

### **ABOUT ROCA**

Roca is an internationally recognized organization moving the needle on urban violence by working relentlessly with young people at the center of it. Roca's four-year Intervention Model features relentless outreach to young people (most of whom have been incarcerated); a highly portable and relatable version of cognitive behavioral theory (CBT); and opportunities to practice skills, relapse, and repeat, through trauma-informed employment, education, and life skills programming. And because it takes all of us, Roca helps institutions like police, probation, and parole change the way they work with traumatized young people.

### **ROCA BALTIMORE**

In 2018, Baltimore's civic and corporate leaders invested in launching Roca's first national replication in the City of Baltimore. Four years into this work, Roca Baltimore has worked with 445 young men (ages 16-25) in the city and achieved unprecedented coordination with the Baltimore Police Department, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, and Maryland Department of Probation & Parole. Roca leadership has also been working with the Baltimore County Executive and his team to plan and launch work with up to 40 young men in Baltimore County, focusing on the Essex/Dundalk Area. Roca has already begun to meet with young men referred from MD DJJ. The Roca Impact Institute has also provided several trainings for Baltimore County Police on brain science and emotional regulation.

### **Roca 2019-2022 Outcomes**

- ✓ 445 Young Men Served
- ✓ 79% **NOT** Re-Arrested after 2 Years of Enrollment
- ✓ 98% **NOT** Re-Incarcerated after 2 Years of Enrollment

### **ROCA SUPPORTS HB488**

Roca's mission is centered around identifying and connecting evidence-based efforts to young people at the center of violence. Roca understands training resources for folks who are returning from incarceration are integral to ensuring long term violence prevention is sustained. Training programs that provide certifications that lead to gainful employment create pathways for behavior change, which results in a reduction of violence and a reduction of incarceration for those young people we serve.

We know young people can change; we know when we invest in young people, we create safer communities. Together with committed training partners, engaged institutions, and violence prevention collaborations, Maryland is positioned to move forward and effectively to implement the provisions of HB488. For these reasons, Roca urges a favorable report on HB488.