



**TESTIMONY FOR SB1017**  
**Correctional Services - Maryland Correctional Enterprises**  
**Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator A. Washington

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB1017 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

SB1017 aims to address the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into society by requiring Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) to develop a plan for an individual's employment after their release, whether on parole or other supervised programs. The plan is to be a collaboration among MCE, the Maryland Department of Labor, the Division of Parole and Probation, and local workforce development boards. The bill also establishes procedures for helping formerly incarcerated individuals in the competition for state jobs.

Having stable employment increases the chance of a successful transition by reducing recidivism. A job provides stability, purpose, and financial independence by helping to meet basic needs such as housing, food, and healthcare. Having a job facilitates social connections, self-esteem, and purpose, leading to greater opportunities in the future.

Stable employment also reduces the impact on families and children who stand to benefit from a more successful reentry of the former offender. Thus, a more successful reentry could mean avoided costs associated with re-incarceration and the support families would need who were financially dependent on this individual.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition continues to advocate for this and similar bills that increase chances for a successful reentry for former offenders.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.