



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

HB 0194 Support

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 194 – Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Incarcerated Job Training Act

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for HB0194 – Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program. This critical piece of legislation provides the men and women behind bars with a tangible opportunity for rehabilitation and financial stability before their return to society.

Understanding that it is the job of the State's Attorneys' Office of Baltimore City to hold those accountable who go afoul of the law, this office also aims to ensure that we provide proven and sustainable pathways to reduce crime. We can decrease Maryland's recidivism rate by increasing the level of marketable skills, trades, and employment opportunities for those who need and deserve a second chance.

That is why our office is partnering with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service and the Governors Office to craft our own re-entry program in Baltimore City. We believe that providing resources to individuals while they are incarcerated promotes public safety because it helps prevent individuals from recidivism and committing further crimes.

Delegate Metzgar demonstrates in this legislation that the need for real reform within our criminal justice system is not a partisan effort, but rather one supported by men and women of all political affiliations and economic backgrounds. This bill should serve as a reminder of how this body of legislators can work collaboratively across the political aisle to provide every Maryland resident a viable opportunity at success despite past mistakes.

We cannot claim to be a progressive and forward-thinking state while allowing such injustices to persist as it relates to incarcerated citizens.



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By ensuring fair compensation and financial resources for those who have spent years behind bars, we can help break the cycle of poverty and crime while promoting success and stability for an entire generation of people. I am inspired by the proactive approach HB0194 takes, recognizing that we cannot realistically expect to end recidivism if we don't begin advancing common-sense solutions to uplift individuals who already face an uphill road in life when they are first released.

It is for these reasons that I support House Bill 0194 and ask this committee to consider doing the same.

Sincerely,

Matias C. Cacheiro
Deputy Director of Government Affairs
Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City