

SB689

Uploaded by: Jodeci Albertson

Position: FAV

Written Testimony for SB 689
Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements
Bri's Law

My name is Jodeci Albertson and my little sister Brianna Mae Weishaar, was brutally taken from my family. Not because of an accident, not because of health issues, but because violent repeat offenders (VROs) and gang-affiliated felons are being released back into society without proper monitoring and structure. This judicial system is relying on the hopes that these felons are rehabilitated and will rejoin the communities they once hurt or neglected and behave differently. I am not saying that these individuals should never rejoin society, Brianna was one of the most willing people to give others a second chance. I am saying that we can take a different and more effective approach in rehabilitating inmates returning to society.

This task force to study postrelease services and requirements is necessary and long overdue. Maryland needs to not only protect their communities but also help their parolees be more successful in reintegration. This is an issue that needs to be addressed, not just because my sister was murdered by recently paroled felons who should've been monitored more effectively but also because Maryland has one of the highest recidivism rates in the United States. The three year recidivism rate in Maryland is 40.5%. This means that within 3 years after being released, almost half will be reincarcerated again. That statistic alone clearly identifies that our current approach is not effective.

Maryland has implemented their C.A.R.E.S program and has also added more reentry planning and guidance for inmates approaching their release. Then after the inmate gets released Maryland just gives them a curfew and periodic drug tests and then hopes they are capable and willing to apply what they've learned. Having some level of routine in your daily life has been proven to reduce stress, promote a feeling of self-efficacy, and create a sense of control over your environment. It is also shown through many studies that individuals with lower levels of routine in their daily life report higher levels of anxiety and depression. This stressful and emotional transition can contribute to why inmates struggle to implement the skills learned in a more structured and controlled environment. Maintaining a level of structure and routine during the transition, with active monitoring and guidance not only benefits the community but also the parolee. Maryland needs this task force and Bri's Law to show that it cares about its law-abiding citizens as much as they care about giving felons a second chance.

SB 689 Written Testimony - JPR.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
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Senate Bill 689 – Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law)

February 25, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 689, *Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law)*. This legislation establishes a dedicated task force to examine the types of release from incarceration in Maryland and evaluate the effectiveness of postrelease programs and requirements aimed at reducing recidivism. By bringing together key stakeholders, including members of the General Assembly, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, this bill ensures a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improving outcomes for individuals transitioning back into society.

The creation of this task force is a critical step toward strengthening public safety and supporting successful reintegration. By studying current practices and identifying gaps, the task force will provide actionable recommendations to enhance postrelease programming, reduce repeat offenses, and ultimately protect communities across Maryland.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

2026_02_25 SB 689 Task Force to Study Post Release

Uploaded by: Tiffany Clark

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ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

February 25, 2026

TO: The Honorable William Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 689 – Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept Senate Bill 689 - Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law). Senate Bill 689 establishes a task force charged with studying post-release programs and requirements across all types of release from incarceration in Maryland and making recommendations to reduce recidivism.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance evidence-based criminal justice reform and reduce the racial disparities that persist in Maryland's reentry outcomes. Maryland's 2022 recidivism rate of 31.55%—and the disproportionate barriers faced by Black Marylanders upon release—underscore the need for a systematic examination of whether existing post release programming is meeting its goals. A dedicated study of this kind would generate the evidence base necessary to inform meaningful legislative and administrative improvements.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. The OAG notes, however, two areas where the Committee may wish to consider refinements before the bill moves forward.

First, the Task Force's membership is relatively narrow. As currently structured, the body does not include representatives from community-based reentry organizations, individuals with lived experience of incarceration, behavioral health providers, or housing and employment service providers. Broadening the membership to reflect the full spectrum of stakeholders with relevant

expertise and lived experience would strengthen the Task Force's findings and the credibility of its recommendations.

Second, the Task Force's mandate may overlap with the existing Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services, established by House Bill 1037 (2024).

Subject to these concerns, the OAG believes SB 689 is a constructive step toward improving reentry outcomes in Maryland.

Cc: Members of the Committee