



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

BALTIMORE PRE-TRIAL COMPLEX

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Mike McKay- Maryland Delegate

FROM: Edwin Spuler, Administrative Chaplain- BPC

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020

SUBJECT: House Bill 446- DPSCS Chaplain 20-year Retirement

Dear Delegate McKay:

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to respectfully address this legislative body on behalf of my colleagues who serve as Administrative Chaplains in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Please allow me to first state what House Bill 446 is not. This is not a request for a hand out nor a hand up that we are lacking. This is not a Constitutional right that we are correcting. This is not an entitlement that we are demanding.

Simply stated, our appeal is based on two (2) principles: fairness and conscience. First, the issue of fairness. Religious Services is the only Department in DPSCS that is not offered a 20-year retirement. The hours we work and the services we provide are no less valuable or important than those of our colleagues in Social Work, Case Management, Mental Health or Security. We would appreciate equitable treatment. Secondly, the issue of conscience. Corrections is a stressful environment. The industry standard is 1 Chaplain per 500 inmates. Many of us labor diligently while experiencing a substantially higher ratio of 1:750 or even 1:1,000 offenders. We are on call 24/7/365. While we love our ministry vocation and labor as unto a Higher Power, we view House Bill 446 as a reward we will have earned through our work ethic and professionalism.

In conclusion, we are not citizens demanding a right. We are not employees grieving a wrong. However, we are trained public servants who are appealing on the foundational principles of fairness and conscience. Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Spuler
Administrative Chaplain- Baltimore Pre-Trial Complex

