

GBC_FAV_SB574

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TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 574 – DISTRICT COURT – JOBS COURT PILOT PROGRAM

February 18, 2020

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 574, which would establish the Jobs Court Pilot Program in the District Court. The stated goal of the Jobs Court Program is to “reduce recidivism by offering defendants an opportunity to participate in full-time job training and job placement programs as a condition of probation or as an alternative to incarceration.” The “Jobs Court” model follows the framework of other specialty courts, such as Drug Court or Mental Health Court, which have proven to be successful programs that serve as an alternative to incarceration while providing targeted services using a rehabilitative model under structured supervision.

Employment is a key factor in reducing recidivism, but many offenders lack the skills necessary to obtain sustained employment. Connecting these individuals with workforce training opportunities that will equip them with the skills necessary to obtain and maintain meaningful employment would be a positive step towards reducing recidivism and strengthening the workforce. Additionally, providing job training as an alternative to incarceration prevents the myriad of negative consequences that arise during and following the period of incarceration, including negative impacts on families and children.

The GBC-led Coalition for a Second Chance is focused on policy change and employer engagement to increase job training and employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated and justice-involved populations. Senate Bill 574 is consistent with the efforts of the GBC and the Coalition to support intervention programs that provide individuals with education, job training, and access to needed services.

Senate Bill 574 is also consistent with the Greater Baltimore Committee’s 2020 Legislative Priorities which call for policymakers to join together in a coordinated approach that reduces crime while simultaneously addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty, joblessness, and a lack of education or workforce training. Specifically, the priorities encourage policymakers to increase efforts to implement programs that address trauma, addiction, and mental health, and provide access to rehabilitative treatment, education, and workforce training.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 574.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 65-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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AdamSchutzman_FAV_SB574

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Testimony of Adam Schutzman –

SB574

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Support

I want to thank Chairman Smith and members of the committee for taking the time to hear all of us testify today. My name is Adam Schutzman and I am the Program Manager for the Bail Diversion program at The Work First Foundation. With the mission of lifting people out of poverty through employment, the Work First Foundation sponsors programs that connect underserved populations to job opportunities, conducts research on poverty alleviation, and runs a Fellowship Program for young professionals passionate about direct service and public policy. I started at the Work First Foundation as one of those young professionals when the Bail Diversion program was in its early stages and I have had the pleasure and honor to see it grow. Today I want to convey the success of this program and why it would be beneficial to ensure its continuation and expansion.

In February of 2017 bail reform was put into effect in Maryland with the purpose of reducing or eliminating unreasonably high cash bail amounts and promoting the release of defendants on their own recognizance as much as possible. In the city of Baltimore, while the percentage of defendants who receive a cash bail amount has dropped from 35 percent to 14 percent, the percentage of defendants held without bail has increased from 15 percent to 34 percent. It's as if the undue burden of cash bail has simply been replaced with presumptive detention.

This decision has been costly. When behind bars defendants cannot obtain a job, secure childcare, or in many cases maintain their housing situation. A study by the University of Maryland found that of those who could not make bail, 25 percent feared losing their job and 40 percent thought they would lose their home. It's not just the defendants who are paying though. The Justice Policy Institute reported that the Maryland Department of Budget and Management estimated it costs \$100 per day to hold one person in a detention center. In comparison, the cost of pretrial release services comes out to approximately \$2.50 per person per day.

The Work First Foundation's Bail Diversion program has offered a middle course - one that balances accountability with fundamental liberty. As one of the only programs across the nation that utilizes employment and economic empowerment as an alternative to bail, this program is an innovative solution that has successfully cut the cost of jail, helped participants be productive members of society, and increased the chances of favorable trial outcomes. We have seen these results directly. **Fewer than 4 percent of our clients fail to appear in court. Nearly 80% of our defendants receive a positive outcome at their trials with no incarceration or probation.** Judges have responded to defendants' progress in our program and given them a second chance.

More than results in the courtroom though, we are seeing results in young people's lives. Defendants tell us all the time that it is impossible with an open case to find a job because employers are unwilling to take a risk that their trial might have a negative outcome. Still, we have successfully placed more than one third of these defendants into full time employment - employment that lasts beyond their trial dates.

I ask the committee today to support SB574. The Work First Foundation's Bail Diversion program and partnership with the District Court Re-Entry Project has proven to be successful and

would benefit from a sense of security that the program can be funded. I am not exaggerating when I say that this program has the potential to transform the bail and pretrial debacle all across Maryland. Thank you for your time.

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Position: FAV

THE BALTIMORE BAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM

SUMMARY

- 351 participants enrolled
- 331 have had their trial completed, while 20 are still awaiting a trial outcome

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 88.9% male, 11.1% female
- 70.1% are accused of a violent crime, 22.2% have a drug related charges
- Most common charge: Second Degree Assault

COURT CONNECTIONS

- 26 district court judges referring participants
- 1 dedicated pretrial services officer assigned to this program

EMPLOYMENT

- 134 participants placed into employment
- Types of employment include warehouse, construction, food service, telemarketing, and customer service, industrial laundry

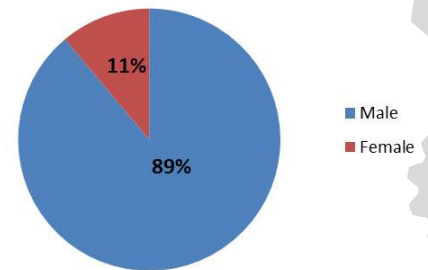
POST PROGRAM STATUS

- 77.3% of completed cases have been acquitted, nol prossed or STET
- Several are pursuing further education including GED programs and college

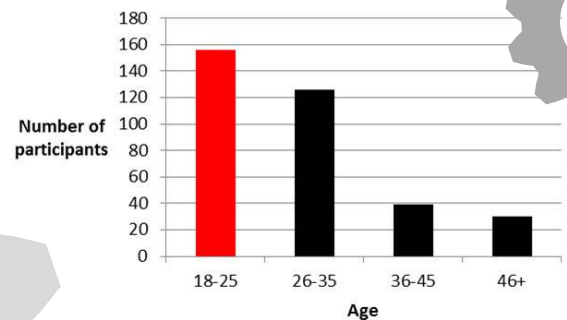
INTEREST IN PROGRAM

- Senators Van Hollen, Booker, Harris, Paul and Congressmen Ted Lieu have expressed interested in the program
- Met with Baltimore City's Office of Criminal Justice

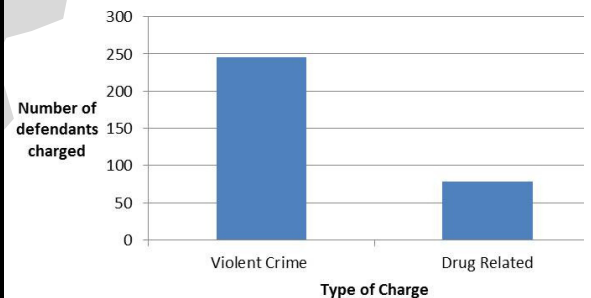
Gender



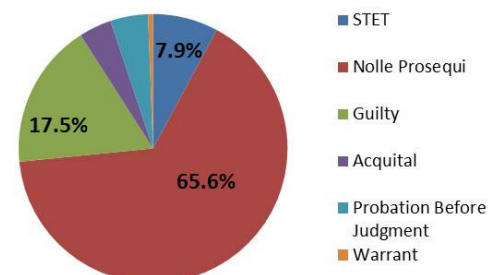
Age of Participants



Types of Charges



Trial Outcome



AMWorks_FAV_SB574

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Position: FAV

THE BALTIMORE EX-OFFENDER REENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

SUMMARY

- 1533 participants enrolled
- 1318 successfully completed training
- 86% graduation rate
- Graduated 216 training classes

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 82.4% male, 17.4% female, Transgender .2%

CRIMINAL HISTORY

- 86% of participants have a felony conviction
- Average participant has 2 felonies and 2.5 misdemeanor convictions

RECIDIVISM RATE

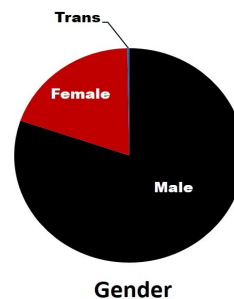
- 20% recidivism rate for participants placed in employment as compared to 40.5% recidivism rate in Maryland

EMPLOYMENT

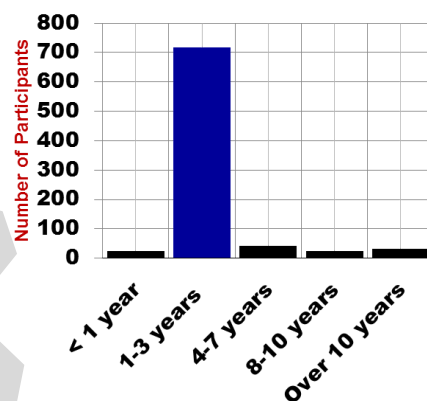
- 61% of graduates were placed into employment
- Several have received raises within a six month period
- Average wage for past year is \$11.55

RETENTION STATUS

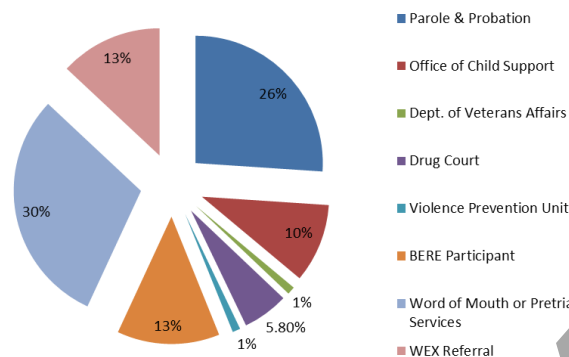
- 88% reached 30 days of employment
- 78% reached 90 days of employment
- 69% reached 180 days of employment



Time Incarcerated



Referral Source



Brandon_Boone_Fav_SB574

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Position: FAV

Brandon Boone SB574 Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brandon Boone and I have been lucky enough to experience the America Works program. I was placed there after a series of unfortunate events that led me to be arrested and detained for a short period of time. I myself do not have the support of a loving mother or father and most of my friends are dead or in jail. I'm a young black male that has lived in Baltimore my whole life and I consider myself lucky because I could have just as easily been a statistic. The America Works program helped me find employment and taught me how to better manage my time. I learned to dress for success and maintain a positive attitude even though things seemed uncertain. People like Adam Schutzman and other America Works employees help save lives on a daily basis whether they realize it or not. Sometimes this can be a hopeless city and we need more motivators like the ones at America Works. I will never forget how they rang the bell in celebration for me when I got a job placement at Pasha Auto. An increase in morale can dictate better decisions for days to come as you often don't want to disappoint the only people rooting for you.

People at America Works didn't just help me get a job; they tried to help better my life, assisted with transportation, and even stayed in contact to this day. I think every city should have an America Works program, especially the poverty stricken ones as I am proof that the program provides more jobs and less crime for the city. On my graduation day I saw many of my peers who looked like me, and had made a few poor decisions just as all humans do. We all learned from those mistakes in some way as we maintained employment and graduated from the program. Out of my class, I believe about 3 graduates passed away before they could celebrate

their graduation day. Even still many of their parents came and received support and applause from us other graduates and the America Works team. They thanked America Works for helping and we all encouraged each other. Even though many of us were strangers, we all have experienced some type of loss whether family, employment, or just plain happiness.

As an alternative to jail, America Works partners with some agencies that can teach trades and give people long lasting careers, not just temp jobs. I thought the job at Pasha Auto would be horrible but it turned out to be one of the most fun jobs I ever had. I helped load and deliver new cars to and from the port, did inventory and several other tasks but the most fun was driving the cars, of course. America Works listened to what I was trying to do in life and placed me somewhere they thought suitable and they turned out to be correct. All the jobs I had picked for myself in the past were bad for me. If I could say two things to the America Works team of Baltimore City I would say thank you so much and ask that you please help others just as you have helped me. You have made a long lasting impact in my life and I will always speak highly of the program.

Yours Truly,

Brandon Boone

Baltimore City, MD

HollyPoultry_FAV_SB574

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Position: FAV



February 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is José A. Vázquez. As HR Administrator at Holly Poultry LLC, our company has recently partnered with America Works to recruit employees. Specifically, the Baltimore Bail Diversion Program of America Works has been beneficial to our company.

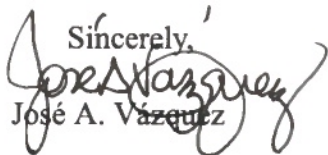
Our partnership with the Baltimore Bail Diversion Program has allowed us to hire valuable workers for our company. In total, the number of applicants we have hired is nine employees. This includes two recent new hires who are set to begin work next week.

Each employee has become a hardworking team member of our production department. In particular, one employee has become a lead member in their own department. Overall, each employee has proven to be a responsible and reliable worker. Thus far, the employees who have been working for us have been thriving in our company.

Additionally, this past November I was fortunate enough to attend the graduation ceremony of our employees as well as others from various organizations. It was rewarding to see our workers being honored for their contributing hard work and success.

Without no doubt, the partnership between Holly Poultry LLC and the Baltimore Bail Diversion Program has produced successful workers and it is my hope that it will continue to do so.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-727-6768, Ext 134 or Cell: 443-827-1725. Thank you.

Sincerely,

José A. Vázquez

MarshaNetus_FAV_SB574

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Position: FAV

Testimony of Marsha Netus
Vice President and Regional Director for America Works of Maryland, Inc.

Thank you committee members for the opportunity to testify today. It is an honor to sit before you to discuss our organization and testify on the behalf of our partnership with the Work First Foundation and the Jobs Pilot Program. I am Marsha Netus, Vice President and Regional Director for America Works of Maryland, Inc. (AWMD) and Washington, DC (AWDC). AWMD is a subsidiary of the America Works network of companies, founded in 1984 by Dr. Lee Bowes and Peter Cove with the core value that work should be the foundation for upward mobility. Since 1997, our Baltimore office has worked with various disadvantaged populations such as TANF or welfare to work, SNAP recipients, individuals receiving disability benefits, and Justice involved or returning citizens. Our motto is quite simple, there is a job for everyone, its matching the right person with the right opportunity. Through our national network of employers, our employer-centered contextualized training programs, and prescreening model, we have placed over one million people into long-term employment nationwide. We strongly believe in performance based models as the true measurement for accurate results, while holding vendors accountable for true customer success.

AWMD customer partnership includes extensive outreach services, building relations, employment preparation, intensive case management, educational/training services, and most importantly job placement and retention services. We have an extensive network of community partners throughout the area which provide additional wrap around services for those in need.

Since 2010, through support from the Abell Foundation, the Work First Foundation (WFF) has successfully provided direct job training, placement, and retention services to justice-involved individuals in Baltimore City with its collaborative partner, America Works of Maryland, Inc. (AWMD). The Baltimore Exoffender Reentry Employment Program (BERE) has served between 100 and 200 individuals per year, for an approximate total of 1533 individuals to date. 61% have been placed into full -time employment ultimately leading to 69% reaching 180 days retention.

In June 2017 AWMD collaborated with the WFF to examine innovative solutions to the predatory cash bail system. The goal is to reduce unnecessary jail time and avoid the criminal justice system while providing alternatives to incarceration through economic stability of employment. Holding defendants without bail not only results in stress on family members, loss of employment, and potential loss of housing, but could have long lasting implications on the person's wellbeing. The WFF and America Works partnered with Baltimore City District Court Judge Pastore on a bail diversion initiative. Instead of forcing low-income individuals to sit in jail as they await trial, presumed innocent, the Bail Diversion Program refers them to job readiness and placement services through the Work First Foundation, giving them the opportunity to be productive members of society through employment. The goal would be an added resource to help judges have the confidence that defendants can be released safely in their community and will attend trial. Through this program, defendants are referred to a pre-trial agent who is in daily contact with AWMD to update the status of each pretrial participant. When defendants are referred to AWMD for services, their immediate needs, such as stable housing, childcare, transportation and professional clothing are assessed. After the assessment, they are immediately enrolled in job

training services and meet with an AWMD Sales Representative to find an employment position that fits their skills and qualifications. As of January 2020, we are proud to share we have placed 134 participants into full-time employment; 86% have been retained for 30 days, 79% for 90 days, and 66% for 180 days. Due to our long-standing relationship in the Baltimore Metro area, we are partnered with employers willing to hire the person despite having open charges. They are interested in giving a person a second chance. These jobs include warehouse, construction, food service, telemarketing, and customer service. We are also pleased to share 77.3% of cases have been acquitted, Nolle processed or STET. These are charges where 70% are accused of a violent crime primarily second degree assault and 22% have drug related charges. The success of the program is picking up attention from large research organizations such as Manpower Demonstration Research Corp (MDRC) who are interested in conducting advanced research. The WFF and AWMD met with the offices of Senators Van Hollen, Booker, Harris, and Paul who have expressed interest in the program.

The long-term impact of this program cuts the State cost of imprisoning an individual while helping them build a level of stability through self-sufficiency. We would like to thank Judge Pastore for her diligent work with this population, the Abell Foundation for continued support, and we look forward to the committee supporting Senate Bill 574.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and I appreciate your time.

MGA_CoryMcCray_fav_SB 574

Uploaded by: Senator McCray, Senator McCray

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill SB 574

Bill Title: District Court - Jobs Court Pilot Program

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and committee members, I am here today to urge a favorable report on **SB 574**.

I have here with me today, District Court of Maryland Chief Judge John Morrissey and District Court Judge Pastore of Baltimore City. Also with us today is Mr. Maurice Way. Mr. Way is a graduate of what I think you will agree is a very promising project in Baltimore City.

Judge Pastore started the District Court Re-Entry Project in 2016 to address the most pervasive obstacle facing individuals with criminal records: the ability to obtain meaningful employment.

Finding long-term employment with a regular income allows these individuals to become stable and productive members of our communities and, not surprisingly, they become much less likely to reoffend.

Participants in the program are offered educational opportunities, job training, and job placement. They can train in a variety of skills from catering to construction. Participants can learn to operate a mix of machinery from computers, to forklifts, to drones. They can find careers in auto repair, and the sustainable energy, maritime and culinary industries.

In the first 6 months of the program, over 50 individuals enrolled. As of 2020, over 364 individuals have been enrolled. Individuals come to the program through a variety of court referrals, dismissed cases and even civil proceedings. Some as an alternative to incarceration, a condition of probation, or pursuant to pre-trial supervision.

I will let the judges give you the nuts of bolts of how the program works but I am enthusiastic about the future of this important program and the possibility of duplicating it throughout the state. The purpose of SB574 is to do just that.

I do offer a clarifying amendment which I worked out with the Judiciary that removes the funding for the Administrative Office of the Courts and makes Judge Pastore's program the pilot and model for the state. I urge your favorable report on the amended bill and now I will turn it over to my panel.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray
State Senator

Barbara.Wilkins_INFO_SB574

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 574 District Court-Jobs Court Pilot Program (McCray and Guzzone) STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 18, 2020

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 574 creates a five-year Jobs Court Pilot Program in the District Court for the purpose of reducing recidivism by offering defendants an opportunity to participate in full-time job training and job placement programs as a condition of probation or alternative to incarceration. The bill mandates appropriations in FY 2022 in the amounts of \$250,000 to the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board and \$250,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Three PINs are to be created for social workers to assist in administering the Pilot Program

EXPLANATION: DBM’s focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the mandated appropriation provisions and costs associated with three new PINs.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues.

General Fund Budget Outlook Fiscal 2022 - 2025

	Est. 2022	Est. 2023	Est. 2024	Est. 2025
Cash Balance	-\$833	-\$1,135	-\$1,201	-\$1,298
Structural Balance	-\$701	-\$905	-\$984	-\$1,071

Department of Legislative Services, January 2020 Fiscal Briefing

For FY 22 – FY 25, the cumulative impact of an ongoing imbalance between spending and revenues is a \$3.6 billion structural gap. Our structural budget problem reflects a spending problem; not a revenue problem.

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<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

Until we achieve long-term structural balance, programs cannot rely on a consistent funding level. Constituencies for these proposed programs or enhanced spending bills should be forewarned that passage of this legislation does not guarantee future funding. The diversion of General Funds may be repealed or otherwise modified in a subsequent Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) – this action is necessary to ensure a constitutionally required balanced budget in the next fiscal year.

The Administration is cognizant of the downside risks facing our economy and, in the FY 2021 Budget, has set aside \$1.3 billion in reserves. The Rainy Day Fund balance is equal to 6.25% of revenues, \$48 million more than recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC). Moody's Analytics has recently advised of a slowdown in employment growth in the latter part of FY 2021, which DLS estimates would add \$241 million to the structural budget gap in FY 2021 and \$419 million in FY 2022. Historic increases in funding for both K-12 education, as proposed by the Kirwan Commission, and school construction will further aggravate the budget gap.

The 2019 SAC commentary encourages a cautious fiscal approach -- **“Out-year fiscal stress is anticipated despite the expectation that personal income and employment will continue to grow steadily, and entitlement and prison caseloads will hold steady or decline. An imbalance is forecast before accounting for any recommendations from the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.”**

For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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