

Support - HB 1166

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and esteemed Judiciary members,

I urge you to give a favorable report to HB 1166 Diversion Programs.

As you realize this bill would authorize the establishment of law enforcement diversion programs for behavioral health services and referrals. This is a necessary preventative step in addressing the 56% of Maryland prisoners who have been diagnosed with serious mental disorders. If we do not address their needs prior or during incarceration, we are assuring that public safety will be compromised upon their release.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the benefits and support of HB 1166.

Your long and sincere work to improve our Maryland families and communities is deeply appreciated.

God bless us all.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Gardner
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