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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 26, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
Room 101  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 1275; Correctional Services – Inmate Release (Suzanne Jones Act)

Dear Delegate Clippinger:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 5-0, supports House Bill 1275. It would require the Division of Correction to transport inmates to their home jurisdiction upon release from incarceration.

Washington County is the location of three major penitentiaries maintained by the Maryland Division of Correction. These institutions house inmates from all over the state, most of whom, upon release, are in great need of supervision, physical and mental health treatment, job assistance, and many other social services. Many such inmates are a high recidivism risk. If not transported to their home jurisdictions, a large number have no choice but to remain in Hagerstown upon their release from incarceration.

Our local office of the Division of Parole and Probation is kept very busy monitoring and supervising persons who have been convicted in the criminal justice system, both from Washington County, and increasingly from other areas. While our County welcomes newcomers from all over the state to relocate here, we can ill afford to provide all of the social service needs of such a broad sweep of convicted offenders after their release.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully urges the Committee to enact HB 1275.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:   
Jeffrey A. Cline, President