



**REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE INSIDE**

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c/o NPCMF

1323 N. Calvert Street – Suite A

Baltimore, MD 21202

<http://www.rjinside.org>

HB 1463 – Correctional Services – Inmates - Intake and Release Requirements

Reentry Success Act of 2020

Chairman Clippinger
Vice Chair Atterbeary
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Reproductive Justice Inside (RJI) and our coalition members and partners stand in support of HB 1463. RJI is Maryland's only statewide coalition working to address the needs of systems-involved individuals and their access to quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare and the right to parent with dignity.

This legislation is an integral part of the reentry process. When someone is released from incarceration, they are most of the time released without any form of state identification or any kind of documentation that will assist them in securing employment and housing.

HB 1463 will move to eliminate or address some of the biggest issues facing our returning citizens. Several years ago, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that required DPSCS to make sure that everyone being released was given their social security card and birth certificate. This has been implemented on a hit or miss basis at best. DPSCS has long maintained that they are able to meet the documentation needs of its returning citizens – we know this to not be entirely accurate. Transition or reentry coordinators are not at every institution or they are difficult to access. As a result, the very things that would help with the transition process back into our communities are not in place.

HB 1463 provides a clear time line for these things to happen – to ensure that the documentation that is required by the MVA and employers has been applied for and received, to assist in the voluntary enrollment in qualified health plans and benefit programs they are eligible for, and to provide these documents upon their release. This eases the strain that having to navigate without them imposes.

DPSCS and our State has continued to affirm their support for assisting people as they return to our communities. HB 1463 is something that can be done and that will show the commitment to stronger reentry initiatives.

Simply put, HB 1463 is good legislation and the Reproductive Justice Inside Coalition, its members and allies urge your support and favorable report on HB 1463.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven
Reproductive Justice Inside
Coalition Coordinator