



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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February 23, 2021

Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment & Transportation

Delegate Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment &
Transportation

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 0699- Motor Vehicles – Driver's License and Insurance Offenses - Penalties. This bill will stop the criminalization of poverty and the unnecessary incarceration of Marylanders due to non-driving offenses.

HB 699 would benefit African Americans, because it would help stop the criminalization of poverty and stop the incarceration of African Americans for non-driving offenses. Some non-driving offenses such as driving without insurance, are tied to the economic status of the motorist. If someone cannot afford to pay for insurance, they also cannot afford to be incarcerated for any stint of time, as that will damage their current and future employment prospects. In addition, stopping the incarceration of African Americans for non-driving offenses will help keep more Black bodies out of our prisons and jails. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 0699.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Melissa Wells

Melissa Wells
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland