

## Tierra Day AFSCME Local 3661 Testimony Before the Appropriations Committee in Favor of SB 803

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Appropriations Committee. For the record my name is Tierra Day and I am a Drinking Driver Monitor II working for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. I am also the Executive Vice President of AFSCME Local 3661. I am testifying before you today in support of Senate Bill 803, which would create a Drinking Driver Monitor III position within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

I've been a Drinking Driver Monitor since February 14 of 2018, but for almost 14 years before that I was a Correctional Officer in DPSCS. This gives me a unique perspective on how different titles are treated and respected within DPSCS. I was first hired as a Drinking Driver Monitor I, but after showing I could do the job, I was promoted through a non-competitive process to be a Drinking Driver Monitor II. And that's where I have been ever since. I enjoy my job, even though I have roughly 250 cases that I oversee and work every single day. Not only am I monitoring my clients, I am engaging with the judicial system I am engaging with families, I am engaging with all types of people who work case management, in the judicial process and compliance and enforcement.

The frustrating part of working as a Drinking Driver Monitor is not so much the work, which I like even though I have too much of it, but the fact that I have already tapped out in my job advancement. I like working with people, and I don't really want to become a supervisor. But that means that my knowledge and experience gained over the many years of doing this job don't get recognized with any type of move up a career ladder. And that's not fair because Drinking Driver Monitors are the Parole and Probation Agents for DUI offenders. And Parole and Probation Agents actually have a Level III position to advance to, but Drinking Driver Monitors do not.

This is simply a matter of being fair and equitable. It is also a matter of creating the best workforce possible to handle what can be very delicate situations. There is almost a 40% vacancy rate for Drinking Driver Monitors. We need to ensure that we are attracting and retaining the best Maryland has to offer to handle this delicate job. And without recognition that could be achieved for people who put in the time, we are going to have a very difficult time retaining people. The dedication myself and my colleagues have to the job is unmatched. But the level of acknowledgement and appreciation from the State for the job we do is lacking. Please pass Senate Bill 803. That will demonstrate that there is appreciation and respect for the job we do. Thank you very much for your time.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



PRESENTED TO:

**TIERRA DAY**

MONITOR II

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR  
DEDICATION AS  
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

MAY 2020

DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION