



Randallstown

Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 27, 2022

Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT HB 1023-Department of Legislative Services-Collection of Information Related to Public Safety, Criminal Justice, Corrections and Juvenile Services.

Dear Chair McIntosh, Vice-Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

An essential component of the rule of law is based on effective and fair justice systems to ensure that laws are respected, legal needs are met and appropriate sanctions are taken when they are violated. effective justice systems protect the rights of all citizens against infringement of the law by others, including by powerful parties and governments. The impact of well-functioning justice systems and services on a wide range of wellbeing outcomes is nevertheless difficult to isolate from the involvement of other stakeholders such as the police, the prison system and other justice and social actors.

An effective criminal justice system is capable of investigating and adjudicating criminal offenses effectively and impartially, while ensuring that the rights of suspects and victims are protected. Rates of crimes and **recidivism are commonly used metrics to evaluate the performance of the criminal justice system.**

The Randallstown NAACP reached out to the Maryland Parole Commission and DPSCS. The Maryland Parole Commission could not give any data on recidivism rates on Parole and Mandatory releases. (See *Exhibit 1 Response from DPSCS Page 2, #2*) The Department of Parole and Probation could not give the number of violent offenders on probation. (See *Exhibit 1 Response from DPSCS Page 2, #5*) The Department of Parole and Probation could not give how many warrants were issued for violations of probation. (See *Exhibit 1 Response from DPSCS Page 2, #6*) This lack of transparency is unacceptable especially with the possible negative impact on Marylanders.

The Randallstown NAACP requests that DPSCS is required annually to report the following: Recidivism Rates on Parolees, Recidivism Rates on Mandatory Release, The number of Violent Offenders on Probation, and How many Warrants are issued for Violations of Probation. We further request this information is required under HB 1023 and/or added under § 3-207-Commissioner of Correction-Annual reports.

The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on HB 1023 with the above amendments.

yours,

R. Coleman
President, Randallstown NAACP
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C: Judiciary Committee
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