



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT
HB 0025
Rehabilitation and Education
for All Prisons (REAP) Act.
Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Glenn Mortoro and I represent the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN). MEPPN is here on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 25. We believe inmates need a chance to prepare themselves for re-entry into society. Many inmates entered prison when they were young and did not have the chance or the opportunity to complete an education or get adequate job training.

As studies have shown, successful re-entry into society is one of the most challenging parts of rehabilitation. Nearly 40% of new inmates lack a high school diploma or the equivalent. If the inmate leaves prison without additional education or job training, the chances of finding employment are about 50%. One of the seven pathways to successful resettlement into society is education, training, and employment. This bill addresses establishing successful rehabilitation programs and is an essential step in reducing recidivism.

One of the key attributes of this bill is to set goals for the number of inmates in rehabilitation programs. It also establishes a tracking system for the number of inmates enrolled and for the progress being made. These feedback systems are critical to maintaining a successful program. We respectfully request a favorable report.