



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 416**

**FAVORABLE**

**Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act**

**TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair. Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice-Chair, and members of the House Appropriations Committee**

**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Maryland, Diocese of Maryland**

**DATE: February 21, 2023:**

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland in particular has embraced the concept of reparations, a concept not limited to financial considerations but to a leveling of the playing field across a broad spectrum of issues, including achieving equity in quality-of-life issues, such as education.

Research shows that correctional education not only significantly reduces recidivism, but also returns five times the amount of money invested. In simple terms RAND concluded that for every \$1 spent on correctional education \$5 is saved on future expenses for corrections. That means that education is one of the most effective weapons we have to not only combat crime but to turn criminals into law-abiding citizens, competent and skilled workers and responsible parents.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report on HB 416.