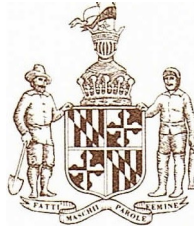


**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**  
Legislative District 12A  
Howard County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Government Operations and  
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority  
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 9, 2023

### SUPPORT

#### **HB1057 - Correctional Services – Inmates – Labor, Job Training, and Educational Courses**

Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chairman Moon, and Members of the Committee,

**HB1057** is introduced as one part of our ongoing effort to achieve true and sustained criminal justice reform. Reform which serves to decrease overall crime, minimize recidivism, and create a path to true criminal rehabilitation. Rehabilitation which corrects behavior and succeeds in allowing inmates to re-enter society prepared, equipped and able to contribute to it in a positive, productive manner. Rehabilitation that closes the revolving door.

**HB1057** does this by addressing head-on the peonage system that is a vestige of slavery and a remnant of disproven theories of criminal justice and perverse economic incentives for perpetuating systems and a legacy of labor exploitation.

- Require the Department of Corrections and Maryland Corrections Enterprises to compensate inmate labor a minimum wage of \$5/hour – still low, but significantly higher than the \$.30 - .70 / hour that has been the standard.
- Remove provisions allowing inmate wages to be deducted for room and board clothing.
- Ensure that, when applicable, a portion of inmate wages go towards meeting their child support, victim restitution, victim compensation and other external financial obligations.
- Expand job training opportunities with focus on marketable skills and partnerships labor unions and trade associations.
- Increase educational offerings to all inmates including certificate and degree opportunities beyond the GED level and financial literacy.

Quoting "Finances After Prison a Collaborative Approach" by John E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections and Robin L. Wiessmann, Pennsylvania Secretary of Banking and Securities, published in 2018,

*"Returning citizens have the best chance at success in the community if they have the tools they need upon release. Having a high school or equivalent degree, completing job training, gaining access to housing, medical care, and employment, and achieving financial capability are all essential parts of becoming a productive citizen."*

We can do what is right. We can no longer afford not to. I urge a favorable report on **HB1057**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terri Hill'.