



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 19, 2023

Judiciary Committee Room
101 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT HB 0715-Correctional Services - Violent Crime - Parole

Dear Chair Clippinger:

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 well-being of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland. The Randallstown NAACP members have stated that Public Safety is the number one issue.

Most of the murders in the region were committed by offenders with long criminal records who only served very short prison sentences or were on parole at the time of the murder.

Baltimore County saw 33 murders in 2022, down from 54 in 2021. An analysis shows that out of the 70 suspects charged with murder, 90% had been previously convicted of a felony, a quarter of these suspects were on probation at the time of the murder, **17 of these suspects would have been in jail if they served 85 percent of their sentences.** Therefore in 2022, there would have been only 25 murders and in 2021 the number would be 40. In other words 22 people would still be alive to interact with their children, parents and loved ones.

Virginia on January 1, 1995, implemented requiring all felony offenders to serve 85% of their sentence. Since 1995, Virginia's crime index rose from the 20th safest state to the 7th safest state. 28 states have an 85% requirement for offenders, 4 states have a 100% requirement and 6 states have a 75% requirement that offenders must serve their sentences.

HB 0715 will increase the length of time convicted violent criminals are incarcerated, thus reducing the number of crimes they would commit between early release and the incarceration time they would serve under this bill. This is not about Democrats or Republicans. This is about saving Marylander's lives and ensuring public safety.

The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on HB 0715.

yours,

Ryan Coleman
Randallstown NAACP, President
<http://randallstownnaacp.yolasite.com>

<http://www.usa.com/rank/us--crime-index--state-rank.htm>

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrljoiZmEyNTg0ODEtYmM0Ni00YzMyLWI3N2QtMWI5NzNmMDE3MWwE0liwidCI6jk0NGZhOWJhLTg0NTQtNDEzZC1iOWU2LWJmNDBhZjFkNmE5YiJ9>