



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 20, 2023
Immediate Release

Media Contact: Ryan Coleman
randallstownnaacp@gmail.com

Randallstown NAACP supports HB 0715 requiring violent offenders to serve 85% of their sentences.

Randallstown, MD - President Ryan Coleman released the following statement on HB 0715.

“Violent crime, like the price of gas, is rising. Not everyone is experiencing this crime wave in the same way. For some, it’s a distant issue experienced by other people somewhere else. For others, it’s a daily life-threatening concern. The Randallstown NAACP members are tired of violent repeat offenders and the inability to address the issue.

Repeat violent offenders committing crime has a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities and is highly concentrated in a relatively small number of neighborhoods that have historically been under-resourced and racially segregated. This is due to weak gun laws; high recidivism rates, systemic racial inequities, including unequal access to safe housing and adequate educational and employment opportunities; and a history of disinvestment in public infrastructure and services in the communities of color most affected by gun violence.

The Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, Department of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services has failed the residents of Maryland. They have been unable to rehabilitate offenders and monitor offenders to make it safer for all the residents of Maryland, especially black and brown

people. We are not talking about misdemeanor crimes but murders and rapists. Thus, repeat violent offenders are allowed to victimize citizens of our state.

In fact, if HB 0715 was on the books 8 people murdered in Baltimore County (2022) would be alive today. Those suspects would not be on the streets of Baltimore County but in jail serving 85 percent of their sentences. This bill increases the amount of jail time served making our neighborhoods safer. This is the United States of America and nothing is beyond our capacity if we work together.