



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 620

FAVORABLE

Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Co-Chair, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee; and Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Co-Chair, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 28, 2024:

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland have 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 SB 620.

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