



# City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

January 23, 2024

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
c/o Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0179 - Criminal Justice Reforms

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bowie to express our support for Senate Bill 0179, a critical piece of legislation aimed at making important reforms in our criminal justice system. The bill addresses the treatment of probation and parole violations related to firearm use or possession, provision of reentry kits, assistance in obtaining Medicaid benefits, and alterations to penalties for certain firearm-related offenses.

We believe that Senate Bill 0179 represents a significant step towards a more equitable and rehabilitative criminal justice system. Specifically, establishing that a violation involving the use or possession of a firearm is not a technical violation for certain purposes recognizes the complex nature of such cases and allows for a more nuanced approach to probation, parole, or mandatory supervision.

The provision requiring the Commissioner of Correction to provide incarcerated individuals with a re-entry kit and assistance in obtaining Medicaid benefits under certain circumstances demonstrates a commitment to supporting successful reintegration into society. Access to essential resources and healthcare services is crucial in empowering individuals to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

Furthermore, the bill's adjustments to prohibitions against using firearms in the commission of crimes and the classification of certain offenses as crimes of violence are essential in ensuring that our laws effectively address the severity of criminal activities while maintaining a fair and just legal framework.

As representatives of the City of Bowie, we believe that Senate Bill 0179 aligns with our commitment to promoting a criminal justice system that is both effective and compassionate. We urge the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to support this legislation and contribute to the advancement of reforms that will benefit our community and the broader state of Maryland.

Thank you for your dedication to criminal justice issues, and we appreciate your consideration of our support for Senate Bill 0179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bowie City Council  
Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor