

Delmont Player

ID#286573/ SID#1775708

Maryland Correctional Inst. Jessup

P.O. Box 549 (MCI-J)

RE: 2024 Legislative Session

SB0134 / HB0297

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

As-Salaam-Alaikum!

To whom it may concern:

My name is Delmont Player and I am a 42 year-old Maryland resident who has been incarcerated since the age of seventeen currently being housed in the Maryland Correctional Institution located in Jessup, Maryland. I have been housed in every maximum security prison in the State of Maryland and spent more than 15 years under some of the worst conditions of solitary confinement. So I wanted to not only show my support for the Correctional Ombudsman Bill, I also wanted to tell my story.

To begin with, as I expressed above I came to prison at the age of seventeen. I was angry, uneducated [*i.e., barely able to read or write*], and misguided, all of which is well documented. However, none of this stopped the institution from sanctioning me to long periods of segregation with no visits, no phone calls, **no schooling** and **no recreation**. Furthermore, once I entered the prison system it became worse. I have been housed in dilapidated cells with **no water** and **no heat**. I have had officers toss my breakfast, lunch, and dinner bags into the cell as if there was food inside only to discover that there was nothing, except toilet paper inside. This was done to make it appear for the tier-cameras as if I was being fed. On January 6, 2006, after participating in a riot in the North Branch Correctional Institution, I was deprived food, left in restraints for hours, denied showers, and refused medical treatment. It got so bad that a group of about 30 of us went on a hunger-strike until Headquarters (Reisterstown Road) was forced to send out the deputy commissioner to investigate. My mail was tampered with and at times destroyed. **My family was denied visits and even threatened.** During this time several officers were assaulted and I ended up with a five-year additional prison sentence and over seven years of lock-up/segregation time. (See prison base file and or court documents).

There were other serious incidents that took place on October 31, 2005; and February 16<sup>th</sup> 2007. After all, you have to keep in mind that a large number of the officers assaulted during the riot had family [i.e. nieces, nephews, sons, wives, etc.] who still work at the institution. Again, all of this is well documented. On March of 2007, I was shipped out of the State of Maryland as one of Maryland's most disruptive prisoners as a means of 'retaliatory punishment'. As a result, I ended up in quite a few bad situations. Upon my return to the state after three years, my old lock-up time was reinstated without incident. My visits were taken. All of my property was sent home or destroyed against my wishes. This was despite the fact that I'd obtained my GED, held my job for two years, completed countless self-help programs, and began attending college computer class.

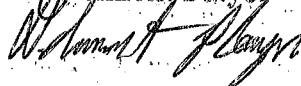
On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, there was another incident involving several officers extracting me from my cell after another racist situation where officers claimed to make their own rules. Again, my personal property was destroyed, including **my father's funeral photos** and **my trial transcripts**. The ARP/IGO process afforded me nothing, especially since the officers would literally rip them up right in front of my face. I say all that to say that there has to be some kind of oversight. I suggest someone who actually cares about what goes on behind these prison walls. I have endured power outages, water shutdowns, bad medical treatment, etc. and I have seen worse. The only thing that has sustained me is the fact that I have family members who love me, family members who refuse to stop making calls once I am able to get word to them about the situation. Many don't have that support! This is why they continue to be treated so inhumane.

I support the need for a Correctional Ombudsman Bill because on the inside these people cannot be asked to police themselves. Time and history has shown and proven that that doesn't work. A viable solution is long overdue. I would also like to acknowledge in this particular institution the fact that the case management department is extremely bad. They are of NO HELP and I have made complaint after complaint to no avail.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration and fight to clean up a very broken system. May Allah (God) continue to bless and keep you.

Respectfully submitted,

Delmont Player



RM # 2970131  
Randy McPeak  
Jessup Correctional Institution  
P. O. Box 534  
Jessup, MD 20794

January 2024

**To the Maryland General Assembly Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary Committees**

IN FAVOR – Correctional Ombudsman Bill SB 0134 / HB 0297

I have been incarcerated for over 12 years. For the past year have been actively involved as a SMART Recovery Training facilitator and a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. I am part of a unique group of men that provide support services to approximately 200 men each week. I am asking for a FAVORABLE vote in support of the Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

The Correctional Ombudsman Bill is necessary because the medical department does not operate in a way that benefits the ill. Sick call slips often go unanswered, medication refills frequently go unfilled, and rarely does anyone go to sick call where a doctor or physician's assistant conducts a physical examination. When I was in the community, every time I went to the doctor, he/she would conduct a routine examination of my throat, glands, ears and eyes. Rarely does a doctor or physician's assistant put their hands on an incarcerated person. A doctor usually determines what is wrong with a client based on an oral interview of the incarcerated person. In addition, it takes forever for someone to be seen by the medical department once a sick call slip has been submitted. I AM ASKING FOR A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL.

The Jessup Correctional Institution also has a serious problem with black mold. Black mold is everywhere, particularly in the recreation area ceiling tiles. There is also a serious problem with rain dripping from the ceiling. Also, the food at JCI is horrible. I understand that prison is not meant to be nice. However, the conditions at the Jessup Correctional Institution are atrocious, below standard and kept away from public scrutiny. Showers are also constantly cold and repairs to broken showers and toilets can take months.

The Correctional Ombudsman Bill can cure the problems that are so pervasive at JCI. I am asking for a FAVORABLE VOTE FOR THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL.

ROBERT BRAMAN #1006886

JCF

JESSUP, MD.

I AM IN FAVOR OF A CORRECTIONAL  
OMBUDSMAN BILL SB0134/HB0297

I AM A RESIDENT OF THIS INSTITUTION  
SINCE FEBRUARY 2022. IN THE SHORT AMOUNT  
OF TIME SINCE I GOT HERE, I HAVE SEEN  
SEVERAL CHANGES BY THE ADMINISTRATION,  
NOT BY THE DAILY INMATE ACTIVITY.

THE CHANGES HAVE OCCURED IN SEVERAL  
AREAS. I HOPE I CAN GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF  
WHAT I AM SAYING. A) I AM A HEART & LUNG  
PATIENT. I HAVE A VERY HARD TIME GETTING THE  
REQUIRED MEDS. I AM TOLD THAT THE ADMIN.  
DID NOT FEEL THESE ARE NOT NECESSARY. THEY  
REFUSE TO CONTACT MY CARDIOLOGIST THAT HAS  
TAKEN CARE OF ME SINCE 1998. B) I HAVE  
REQUESTED CARE FOR THINGS LIKE HEARING  
LOSS - PROSTATE TESTING - EVEN SIMPLE  
THINGS LIKE FLU - TETNAS - SHINGLES SHOTS.  
C) THE PRINTED SCHEDULE FOR REC. TIME, THE  
STAFF LETS YOU OUT WHEN THEY FEEL LIKE IT -  
IF AT ALL. D) THEY ISSUE TABLETS TO  
CUT BACK FROM REC. HALL CROWDING AND  
A SHORTAGE OF PHONES. WHEN THE PROGRAM  
STARTED, WE HAD PHONE ACCESS WHICH NOW IS  
CUT BACK WITHOUT EXPLANATION AND WHEN  
ACCESS IS DENIED - THE MONEY WE PAID OUT  
OF POCKET IS LOST. E) SHOP WORKERS  
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO ENTER THE  
CAFETERIA, EAT, THEN LEAVE, RETURN TO HOUSING  
UNIT FOR SHOWERS. NOW THEY HOLD YOU OUT -  
KEEP YOU IN - AND YOU ARGUE FOR THE  
SHOWER.

I THINK OVERSIGHT WILL FORCE THE INSTITUTION TO RETURN TO WAY THEY USED TO OPERATE. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO COMMIT FRAUD WHEN THEY DOUBLE BILL THE STATE AND MEDICARE. IF THEY WOULD BE MORE COOPERATIVE WITH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, MAYBE VA WOULD HELP WITH CARE & COST. IF THEY WOULD REWRITE AND ENFORCE THE UMATE HANDBOOK, AND MAKE SURE THE STAFF UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE RULES ARE, PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE LESS TENSIONS. TREATMENT OF THE SHOP WORKERS RETURNED TO THE WAY THEY WERE SINCE WE MAKE A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE INSTITUTION.

I AM NOT A SCHOLAR BUT I BELIEVE THAT IF THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD RETURN TO THE WAY THEY OPERATED 2 OR 3 YEARS AGO. THE ADITUDES OF ALL WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE. THEREFORE, I WOULD HOPE FOR A CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN.

MR. De'RON Johnson SR. # 1219206  
Jessup Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 534  
Jessup, MD 20794

To the Maryland General Assembly Judicial  
Proceedings and Judiciary Committees  
IN FAVOR - Correctional Ombudsman Bill # SB 0134  
HB 0297

I am a 50 year resident of Maryland from  
the northwest section of Baltimore City.  
I am in complete support of the bill.

Some of the challenges we face here are  
neglected health treatment, dental treatment,  
filthy solitary confinement cells and showers; as  
well as the ARP/IGP process has a dismissal stand  
point. Moreover, there are no vocational programming  
and no single cells for those who should have one. It  
should not be double celling or segregation and/or  
solitary confinement. That's cruel and unusual  
torture. Visitation of our friends and loved ones  
are almost impossible, they cannot wear anything  
(almost) due to the metal detector and hatred from  
the African officers.

Independent oversight can resolve these issues before they become worse. Establishing this will eliminate the so-called review of said matters by the department of corrections itself.

Ask you all to vote FAVORABLE in support of the Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

Thank you

God Bless,

Marcus Tunstall®  
c/d JCI #216796  
P.O. BOX 534  
Jessup, Maryland [20794 0534]

22 November 2024

TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEES

IN FAVOR Correctional Ombudsman Bill # SB0134/HB0297

I am a long term resident of Maryland. I grew up in Prince George's County in the 1970's thru the middle of 1990 (until I was incarcerated on July 23, 1990 -- when I was 17 years old). I have been incarcerated continuously, for a total of 33 years, and four months now (at the drafting of this letter). I was given an aggregate sentence of life without parole ("LWOP"). Due to that LWOP sentence, I was not permitted to participate and benefit from many programs in prison. However, of the programs that I was allowed to participate in; I utilized them to better myself. Along the way, I taught myself how to read and write Arabic. And, I taught myself the law. which I have used and continue to use in assisting others on their cases. Beginning in 2012, I taught myself the legislative process and bill writing. In 2014, I began drafting and submitting proposed bills to many passed and present legislators. With regards to the Correctional Ombudsman Bill before you. I strongly implore you to vote favorably in support of, and pass this Correctional Ombudsman Bill. I perceive it to be a long-overdue law that needs to be codified in Maryland's Annotated Code.

I don't want to belabor this testimonial. However, "everything" is broken within Maryland's prisons. (1) I've seen deaths due to snail slow response times by medical staff. Response times extending between 5-to-10 minutes for medical emergencies. (2) Mentally sick incarcerated persons ("IP") linger in isolated cells for long periods of time without psychological treatment. Which results in a deterioration in their mental health. (3) Correctional officers are unprofessional with IPs and IPs' visitors. (4) There are a large number of IPs who are mandatory education individuals. Yet, the education department only permits approximately 25-30 IPs per year to enter school to earn their GED. Even though there is space for at least 60-70 IPs per year. (5) There are no vocational programs within Jessup Correctional Institution ("JCI") and North Branch Correctional Institution ("NBCI"). Two places that need vocational training the most. Even though it is well known that education and vocational training reduces violence and recidivism. Most importantly, (6) of the few volunteers who come into the prisons to teach the IPs needed rehabilitative life skills. Correctional staff constantly attempt to deter the volunteers from entering prisons and assisting us to become better people. By correctional



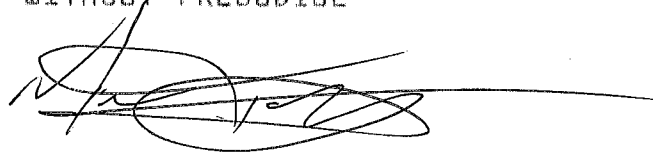
staff sexually harassing some volunteers. Or, forcing the volunteers to wait unusually long wait times before escorting those volunteers to the designated teaching areas. Attempting to either, cut into the time available for that volunteers training session. Or to discourage that volunteer from coming back. These are just a few of the problems that go on in Maryland's prisons.

If there was an independent oversight board (not connected to the DPSCS, nor DOC). Many --if not all-- of the broken problems will be fixed. As of now, the "fox is guarding the chicken coop." And, "the coyote is overseeing the fox, as the fox raids the eggs."

Please, pass this Correctional Ombudsman Bill. Help us have an environment that promotes positive growth, change, and development. Different from the current environment which breeds corruption and self-destruction.

I appreciate your time, consideration, assistance, and attention given to my testimonial/request. I apologize for any inconvenience this letter may have caused you. Accordingly, I look forward to your voting favorably on the Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

Kindest regards,  
"WITHOUT PREJUDICE"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Tunstall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Marcus Tunstall®

## SUPPORT OF THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL

SB0134/HB0297

I am a Maryland resident at the Jessup Correctional Institution. I have been incarcerated for eighteen (18) years, seventeen (17) years and six (6) months of those years I have been housed at this Institution. I have experiential knowledge concerning this bill and believe without a doubt that this bill will be effective especially for this Institution. I fully support a favorable vote in support of the bill.

The challenges that arise from not having independent oversight over the correctional operations are medical not responding to medical emergencies with a sense of urgency or responding at all which results in the death of patients, medical not giving patients there medicine on time or even giving them there medicine at all, medical giving patients the wrong medicine and wrong diagnosis, medical treating every issue with Tylenol, medical not sending patients out to the hospital when they are in need of what the prison medical cannot and will not provide making remarks that it cost too much to have the outside medical provider to be called (EMS), many patients would still be alive today if they had not been neglected and mishandled when it came to their healthcare. Mold infestation in this prison is evident because it is visibly everywhere you go, the cell, shower and recreation area. Whenever there is an inspection they only visit certain areas in the prison and not the whole complex, the residents are always forced to paint over it to hide it because there is always a notice before the inspection is done so everything can be covered over. The consumption of processed food every day and every meal is the number one (1) cause of stomach cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure in this Institution and when stomach complaints are made: Tylenol is always the solution until physical damage has occurred and/or a phone call from a family member to the Warden. The Opioid / Drug Crisis in this Institution along with overdose related deaths are very real and majority of the times are hidden and never reported and remain voiceless. Family members are treated as if they are incarcerated by being disrespected by staff. They are lied to by staff by telling family members that there incarcerated love ones are not allowed to have visits and are turned away but then the truth comes out that the officers did not feel like working a specific post and cancels visits because they can. There is no accountability here in this Institution from the Top of the Administration to the bottom and this job has become a place of convenience and how one feels and not how one cares.

I truly know with all sincerity that Independent Oversight will resolve these issues and bring them to light before they become wide-spread systemic issues because they have no loyalty to the (Department of Public Safety Correctional Services) and are no employed by them. They have no reason to hide, lie or cover-up any corruption or inhumane treatment. I believe that they would view us as people and not numbers or a paycheck. They have no invested stocks into the influx of Prison Complex which is a business and not rehabilitation.

I am asking for a FAVORABLE VOTE in support of the Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

Raymond E. Jones III # 2175606