



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 61
FAVORABLE**

**Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on
Probation - Re-Entry Services**

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair; the Honorable J, Sandy Bartlett, Vice-Chair,
and Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: March 6, 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. The prophets call us to be repairers of that which was broken and restorers of that which has been lost. We view the creation of this program -which will provide re-entry for the formerly incarcerated and those on probation - as another small step by which we as this State might move closer to the prophetic vision of a society that works for the welfare and overall health of all of its citizens.

Research shows that providing these services 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 services, \$5 is saved on future expenses for corrections. That means that investing in those who have been recently released from prison through programs such as those envisioned here 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 HB 61.