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TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Tiffany Johnson Clark
Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 61 – Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services– **Support**

The Office of Attorney General respectfully urges this Committee to give House Bill 61 – Correctional Services – Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation – Re-Entry Services a favorable report. House Bill 61 requires the Division of Correction to establish a program, administered in a facility located in Prince George’s County, that provides formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with (1) assistance obtaining vital documents; (2) assistance obtaining State identification; (3) information regarding housing; (4) assistance in obtaining transportation; (5) information regarding health care; (6) legal assistance, including legal assistance related to child support; (7) anger management counseling; (8) mental health services; (9) substance abuse counseling and prevention services; (10) employment assistance; and (11) financial literacy courses and training.

The United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other nation in the world. Over 7 million people are released from jails and prisons each year lacking the appropriate support for them to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Studies have continuously cited housing insecurity and barriers to education and employment opportunities as the biggest hurdles

individuals must overcome after a term of imprisonment. Often, when an individual is released from jail or prison, they do not know the proper steps to take to be able to start reintegrating into their communities. Many states and counties have established re-entry programs to help create opportunities for successful rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals released from jails and prisons into their communities. Establishing a re-entry program within the Department of Corrections would allow individuals released from jail or prison or who are on probation to have easy and convenient access to the services that would allow them to reintegrate into successfully.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of House Bill 61.

cc: The Honorable Deni Taveras
Judiciary Committee Members