



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 297

Correctional Ombudsman Unit

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Center for Criminal Justice Reform, University of Baltimore School of Law

DATE: March 5, 2024

The University of Baltimore School of Law's Center for Criminal Justice Reform is dedicated to supporting community driven efforts to improve public safety and address harm and inequity in the criminal legal system. The Center submits this testimony in support of House Bill 297 on behalf of impacted individuals.

To: Ms. Olinda Moyd
P.O. Box 1482
Bowie, Maryland 20717

12/18/23

From: Kevin M. Briscoe #173493/401893
P.O. Box 549 (MCI-J)
Jessup, Maryland 20794

Re: Favorable Vote Concerning Correctional Ombudsman Bill SB0134/HB0297

Ms. Olinda Moyd,

My being an incarcerated citizen for the last 30+ years gives me a clear understanding as to why there needs to be an oversight committee. The insight I can provide is first hand and may prove valuable in some of the choices made.

I am in strong favor of this bill for the below stated reasons;


- ARP Process – The only means of being somewhat heard if you have a grievance or complaint against staff. The process has no teeth and depending upon your complaint it's weaponized, the only way to confront issues, is to have DCD's or Comar. Those two outlets are all out dated as to any changes made, so when you file it makes the argument mute. Systematic Retaliation (transfers and blacklisted from certain jobs) Using transfer as a means to separate you from camera footage and witnesses that would assist you with proving the case.
- Medical – Standard care is far below any required standard set by state law (most do not even know how to address matters of health) Write an Arp it's dismissed due to the company being an outside entity. Doctors refuse to honor outside doctors request, leaving you to get worse. Misdiagnosis : You'll often hear there is nothing wrong with you, unless bleeding or fallen out. Example: Prostate often leads to Cancer, instead of eliminating the issue they rather wait until your stage (4) and can no longer be assisted. (it's cost effective to allow a person to die)
- Housing – Every institution I have been sent to has an infestation of mice, bugs and roaches. When you complain they spray outside the cell which defeats the purpose because the pest run into the cells.
- Via Path – Another outside entity that is allowed take our tablet without any justification and that means take our money at the same time, with no recourse to resolve the issue.

- Substance Abuse – Every institution in Maryland has the same problems, no oversight so you hear nothing about it, but it's ugly.
- Commissary – Another outside entity the state collects 8 Million per year, but won't adhere to the policies (Wellness Policy) that are there to protect us to a small degree. Commissary refuses to sell items conducive to older persons trying to maintain their health, bottom line it's profit not health that matters.
- Programing – Community Safety is the goal however, what that looks like from my point of view is that's just window dressing. You send a person to prison for many personal issues, maladaptive behavior, trauma and more. Remove them from society so they can't harm anyone now what happens when released? When you've not help them to redevelop their thought process. The misplaced anger that keeps the person on the defensive is sent back to society as broken as the day they went to prison. (hurt people hurt people) Book education is great more possibilities it doesn't deal with core issues. A few pretty good programs that kick start a person new development like: Youth Challenge, Smart Recovery, Peer Recovery and Alternative to Violence, these programs being successful are based upon how the institution is run and the facilitator's work ethics. As I mentioned none of these programs get to the root cause of personal inner challenges, the dangerous unstable thought process remains.

All it takes is a person's past hurt to bring those fearful thoughts to the surface, as it causes them to revert back to the mindset they know. So what's happening is the cost outweighs the benefit. So more undeserving people get hurt, until perspectives change about the other key assistance that is needed for real and complete redevelopment, this cycle continues.

So much more to express however must keep it short.

As a citizen of the State of Maryland, I am in favor of the Correctional Ombudsman Bill .
Thank you for taking time to read this note. (Too much more to continue)

Respectfully Submitted,

 Kevin Briscoe

12-7-2023

To the Maryland General assembly judicial Proceeding and Judiciary Comm.

I am in favor of the correctional Ombudeman Bill# SB 0134/HB 0297

I am a inmate now at M.C.I.-J, I spent close to 24 years at R.C.I., but still have 10 Years to Serve. I am now 59 Years old.

The reason I truly support this bill is because of how the medical insurance company gets away with stopping of most surgery that are needed. Here is my story and please know I am willing to sign off on releasing my medical file so you can see I am telling the truth.

This will be short but to the point. I need to get both shoulders replaced. R.C.I. put me in for surgery a few times over the course of 9 years. It was approval just as the pandemic^{hit}, so I put it off as I was told to do. Once the pandemic was over I now put in for the surgery again and again but was shot down. I have had a few MRI'S and the results revealed I need the surgery, however yes care shut me down!

For over 4 years now, I have been trying to get A ~~CATERACT~~ removed out of my right eye. I have been put in for surgery at least 10 times. I am blind in my eye, I have enclosed a copy of my last eye examine, and ~~AS~~ you can read, it points out it put me in for surgery many Times but never approved. Once again Yes Care saying no . The reason they gave is I can see very good out of the left eye and no need for surgery for the right eye. This is part of my medical File, yes they really put this in writing. This is why I will sign over all my medical file. The eye doctor at John Hopkins put me in for surgery 15 to 16 month's ago. Being able to see well out of (1) eye should not be the factor of getting the other eye fixed, but Yes Care thinks it ~~SHOVID~~.

Please understand this type of treatment is what they give to 90 % of all inmates. They do not care how much pain a person is in on how they are blind, or deaf. If a person needs 2 hearing aids they will ask what ear do you want to hear out of and give them one. There is no one to contact to hold Yes Care accountable. They do not have any one to take up for us when we need help.

If there is some type of over sight that can be set up it would stop most of the NON treatment that YES CARE gives us. To put someone in power to make them do what is needed or what the law requires would be a GOD sent ^{to} me, yes I pray you put something in place to stop this.

Steven B. Jackson 286140-0392804
MCIJ
P.O. Box 549
Jessup, MD 20794-0549

Sincerely
Steven B Jackson



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Optometry Initial Eye Examination Form

26 EMD

286140

Chief Complaint: decreased vision at distance ODS OS

Date: 11-17-22 Age: _____ Sex: M Race: _____ Seg: _____ P.D. 62

HISTORY: patient was cleared for cataract surgery multiple times by ophthalmologist for right eye but has not been scheduled for

• Symptoms / onset	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retinal Picture	Yes / No	<u>surgery</u>
• Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.M.	I <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/>	
• Quality / Severity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glaucoma		
• Duration / Timing	<input type="checkbox"/>	HTN		
• Context / Modifiers	<input type="checkbox"/>	HIV / AIDS		<input type="checkbox"/> Cholesterol

VA 20/

Old Rx OD +2.50
OS +1.00 -1.00 X 80

Externals / Other

Hx of cataract removal in left eye

-Dense cataract in right eye

IOP @ NCT	OD _____
GOLDMANN/Tonopen	OS _____

Subjective

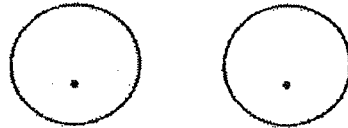
OD Balance
OS +0.75 -1.00 X 80

VA 20/40M

Pupils wnl Mood / Orientation wnl
EOMS ↓ Cover / CVF ↓
Dilation @ _____
0.5% Tropicamide
1% Tropicamide
2.5% Phenylephrine

Final Rx

OD +0.75 (balance) ADD +2.50
OS +0.75 -1.00 X 80 ADD +2.50
SLE: OD OS



wnl Angles wnl
Lashes
Lids
Conjunctiva
Cornea
A/C
Iris
Lens bilobed
4NS

C/D cup vessels macula

OD	<u>Poor view due to cataract</u>		
OS	<u>0.3/0.3</u>	<u>wnl</u>	<u>wnl</u>

Assessment: (1) Nuclear cataract - OD

(2) Presbyopia

Plan: evaluation and extraction immediately with ophthalmology cataract surgeon F/U: ASAP with Date: 11-17-22

Codes:	
Patient's Last, First Name:	Facility:
<u>Jackson, Steph</u>	<u>MCHT</u>
Date of Birth:	Provider:
<u>06/24/64</u>	<u>AJS</u>
SID / DOC #:	
<u>286-140</u>	

1.) Guidance For Written Testimony (2024 Legislative session)

Name L'O' Child C. Reed #107-763 / #262-545

MCIJ: P.O. Box 549 Jessup, MD 20794

2.) To the Maryland General Assembly Judicial Proceeding and Judiciary Committees

In Favor- Correctional Ombudsman Bill# SB 0134 / HB0297 (number not yet assigned)

Paragraph #1.) My name is L'O' Child C, Reed and I have been incarcerated since 7/25/95. I have live in Maryland most of my life with two convictions. The first one is Arm Robbery with a deadly weapon that gave me 10 yrs , which I did 14yrs and the police and judges was hard, society was hard, yet over coming that hardship gave all of us an free citizen and better understanding of what our four fathers and mothers went through, as voting rights was never ever free, yet most of us black people still are not voting for anything to change our situation we vote for other people causes truly not understanding that, this makes us last, we need real reform rights.

Paragraph#2.) Not just in prisons, old folks homes, shelters, hospitals, and we need to do away with the APR/IGP process, and just let every person bring their injury and guilt or innocence to a three judge panel and 13 jurors so that we may get some real justice, I truly believe we as a free nation can really do better. All prisons are inhumane regardless if it's a church or castle as you're being held against your rights and will.

Paragraph #3.) If oversight can be fair, willing, honest, and legal without prejudice, then every man should vote for that.

Paragraph#4.) I am requesting a favorable vote in support of the Correctional Ombudsman bill.

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform www.ma4jr.org

Ms.Olinda Moyd, P.O. Box. 1482 Bowie, MD 20717 Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, 351 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

January 2024

Damon Jones 168350

Maryland Correction Institution Jessup

P.O. Box 549 Jessup, MD 20794

To the Maryland General Assembly, Judicial Proceedings and Judicial Committees. I'm writing to say that I'm in favor of Correctional Ombudsman's Bill. Also that I was and still is a Maryland resident and I attended Baltimore school systems through the 9th grade. But then I went to a new school of learning in 1982 at the age of 18, and that was and still is The Maryland Prison System.

Well as I've stated my incarceration started in 1982 so my insight goes back away's into how mess up the Prison's are. And by not having some one to answer to the Prison's staff got away with a lot of mistreatment of prisoners. Such as being place in solitary confinement for 6 month's before you would go up for the infraction.

By having a independent out side oversight the prison's staff could not get away with some illegal act against the prison population. And also the inadequate medical could be done right. And as I close out I will say that I'm asking the committee to pass the correctional Ombudsman Bill.

Respectfully Submitted
Damon Jones 168350

MARVIN S. CROXSELL # 236308
P.O. BOX 549 (M.C.I.J.)
JESSUP, MD. 20794
January 2024

SB0134 / HB0297

To The Maryland General Assembly Judicial Proceedings & Judiciary Committees,

I am a Maryland resident who has been incarcerated within the Maryland prison system for a little over 43 ½ years. In that time, I have witnessed many different things, all of which is too much to talk about in the space I have been given. However, I am in support of a favorable vote for The Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

It is very important to have an independent oversight over our correctional operations; it is like any other major operation that has checks and balances in place in order to keep order for when left unchecked, many terrible things can happen to fellow human beings. I can remember a time when officers would beat, punch, and kick us until we were a swollen and bloody mess and then throw us in a cell apart from the rest of the population so no one could or would see us. Today we have a medical unit that wants to treat everything with ibuprofen, which is unable to combat a stroke, a heart attack and most other severe illnesses. They are constantly misdiagnosing the men who come to them for help, which has led to a number of lawsuits, but no matter the outcome, the same medical company keeps getting the contract with the state even though they have changed the name of the company while keeping the same incompetent medical staff. I have had three associates die in this prison alone because the nurses did not know how to use the defibrillator, on two of those occasions the officers had to jump in because the nurses did not know. Why is that so? Why wouldn't a person who has been trained in this field know how to operate a tool that is necessary to preserve life? The one thing I do know is if we had an oversight committee, we would have checks and balances and some of these things would not occur or at least something would be done about it to prevent it from happening again. In addition, there is mold in every building. Consequently, the administration does a good job of covering up problematic areas because they know when the tour is coming in, and the areas where they plan to take the tour. Therefore, they just paint over everything or try to clean certain areas to be deceptive but having an oversight committee could change that, we could live in a healthier environment and someone would know what is really going on from top to bottom in every facility. I know that there are some authorities within the system that do not want you to know that many of our facilities are rodent infested, that the food and medical care is less than inadequate. That when one files an ARP for some real issue that

person is most likely going to be harassed or even sent out the prison for filing something that we have rights concerning.

It is most important that we have an oversight committee to help prevent and solve some of the issues that plague our facilities. I know that there are some people who probably brush those of us who are incarcerated off and consider many of us as animals but that is not the case. While many of us have done some terrible things we are still sons, brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins, friends and we are still human beings who are U.S. citizens.

It is my hope and prayer that this committee will get behind and give its full support to the Correctional Ombudsman Bill. The late Congresswoman Barbara Jordon once said, "That if society fails to challenge its wrongs, it creates the impression that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." I hope that is not the case with this committee. That you will have the courage to at least challenge some of the wrongs that are within our facilities.

Respectfully
Marvin Crossell

TESTIMONY (2024 LEGISLATIVE session)

Daniel Hill#240-234
 Maryland Correctional Inst. Jessup
 P.O. BOX 549
 Jessup, Maryland 20794

To the Maryland General Assembly Proceeding and Judiciary
 Committees.

IN FAVOR-Correctional Ombudsman Bill# SB0134/HB0297

My testimony today is based on mental health, (ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVIT DISORDER);. My ADHD abnoral brain disorder must have started as an infant I was slowly being lead poisoned from being fed Gerber baby foods and can pets milk. Growing up as a young boy I had no clue that this was happening to me, my parants and school teachers should recognize this as I was groeing up. It wasn't until I got into high school whhen this abnoral disease of the brain abrutly hit me hard,Its like I was being brain wash of everything I had learned,My mind raceing a hundered miles a hour back and forwarder. While in high school my teachers was just pushing me through school I didn't want that,I didn't want a piece of paper I'd didn't earn. I left high school in the tenth grade to find out what was causing my disorder,to no avail I never found out while I was on the streets. After comeing to prison I enrolled into school to try and get my GED,because I wasn't progressing at the rate of the other inmate's I was put out of school I learned from a tutor that my brain disorder comes from the food I am eating its like eating lead paint. My task started all over again I spent a lot of time in the library searching for books to learn more about ADHD to no avail I found nothing on this subjecttheres alot of elderly people in Maryland prison system like me with this brain disoder in some people it may not be reversable in some people. People people need to be educated and understand about people like me with this type of brain disorder that come from eating food we are not (ignorant) just a little different. I have earned a certificate to ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, If and when I'm released on parole I know I don't have to compet with other students to earn my GED or worry about being put out of school because my handicap. The department of corrections nor the mental health providers offers any kind of assistance, Its the department of corrections responsibilty to develop such program for one hour a day for (Therapy). There is a strong need for a corrections Ombudsman to over see the menthal health provider's I the Maryland General Assembly Committees is heart felt of my handicap I am (62) years of age.

Kind Regards

Daniel Hill

Daniel Hill #240234