



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Chairman Luke Clippinger
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for **House Bill 1037 Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services – Establishment**, a bill that will create a Task Force in charge of helping returning citizens look for re-entry services to ensure a seamless transition back to civilian life. **This bill is on the 2024 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

Although Black people make up 29% of all Maryland residents, they are grossly overrepresented in our state's jails and prisons. Black Marylanders make up 71% and 59% of our jails and prisons, respectively. On average, Maryland releases 7,400 people from prison annually; however, they often have trouble looking for resources to help them transition back to civilian life.

House Bill 1037 will establish a Task Force that will help returning citizens locate re-entry services to help them start their lives anew. Black Marylanders will especially benefit from the services and programs provided to them by the Department of Corrections and Public Safety under this new Task Force. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports **House Bill 1037** and asks that you vote favorably on this bill.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland