

HB0022_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/28/2025

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0022 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Study on Location of Individuals
Prior to and Following Incarceration

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0022, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Study on Location of Individuals Prior to and Following Incarceration

There is a crisis in communities across Maryland. We know, from crime statistics, where incarcerated individuals were found when committing the crime. But we do not have statistics to match the need to rehabilitate and provide the transitional services in an effective and efficient manner to formerly incarcerated individuals.

A study by the University of Chicago Kreisman Initiative for Housing Law and Policy complete 2/6/2024 found:

“The lack of stable housing for formerly incarcerated individuals often creates an insurmountable hole in their journey towards reintegration, severely hindering their access to essential services such as healthcare and employment.”¹

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform examined the problem in 2024.² The intent of this bill is to provide the data needed to develop solutions to the problems discussed. Without the full identification of where we have a need to address we are blindly going on guesswork.

This bill will require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to conduct an annual study examining and comparing certain data regarding an individual's residence prior to incarceration and on release from a State correctional facility. It mandates that the Department, by October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, to report the results of the study to certain committees of the General Assembly. This data collection is vital if we are to make the best possible decisions on what needs to be done to resolve issues about incarceration before and after a crime has occurred.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0022.

¹ <https://kreismaninitiative.uchicago.edu/2024/02/06/harper-locked-out-left-behind/#:~:text=The%20lack%20of%20stable%20housing,such%20as%20healthcare%20and%20employment.>

² <https://www.ma4jr.org/housing/>