

Testimony of Reverend/Dr Gareth E. Murray

President, Black Ministers' Conference of Montgomery County, Maryland

To: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Reverend/ Dr Gareth E. Murray

I am the current President of the Black Ministers' Conference of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Established in March, 1981, the Black Ministers' Conference comprises over 30 Religious Leaders and Congregations of worshippers working to secure the essentials of food, housing, education and economic parity for all citizens including our returning citizens of Montgomery County.

The Black Ministers Conference of Montgomery County fully supports HB0634 - Income Tax - Income Tax Reconciliation Program - Established (Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act)

The Bill would establish the Income Tax Reconciliation Program under the Maryland Comptroller's office. This program will be eligible to incarcerated individuals who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 6 months, but no more than 10 years.

If passed, the Program will help remove the financial burden and barriers for individuals seeking a re-entry into society after they served their sentence.

On behalf of the Black Ministers Conference of Montgomery County, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB0634.