



The BioCritical Studies Lab

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Dear Maryland State Legislatures,

My name is Terence Keel and I am Professor of Human Biology & Society at the University of California, Los Angeles. I am also the Director of the UCLA Lab for BioCritical Studies. My lab uses data science, public health research, and legal analysis to help solve barriers to civic engagement faced by vulnerable populations throughout the United States. I am writing to express strong support for the Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act (Senate Bill 295; House Bill 634), a critically important piece of legislation that offers meaningful financial rehabilitation for individuals transitioning back into society.

This bill establishes an Income Tax Reconciliation Program with three key strengths: compassionate financial relief for incarcerated individuals with state tax obligations; practical reintegration support that removes a recognized structural barrier to successful reentry; and a review mechanism to assess program effectiveness.

This legislation represents a thoughtful, pragmatic approach to supporting individuals rebuilding their lives after incarceration. It reduces financial obstacles and promotes responsible civic participation. Removal of such financial barriers will reduce recidivism and will have a net positive impact on the overall well-being of Maryland residents returning to society. I fully support the Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act.

Respectfully,

Terence Keel
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