



TESTIMONY - FAVORABLE

**HB 108 Division of Correction - Release Preparation
Program**

TO: Honorable Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair, Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chair, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: February 5, 2026

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in support of HB108. Our congregations serve people throughout Maryland.

Prerelease programs are designed to prepare individuals for their transition back into society after incarceration. The goal of these programs is to reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reentry by addressing the specific needs of individuals before their release. A member of our church parish was released from prison without having received any prerelease training or education. The only support that he received from the State was a periodic check-in with his parole officer. Six months later, he died of an overdose. His prognosis might have been greatly improved if he had received prerelease training and education.

For these reasons, the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network urges this committee to issue a favorable report on HB108.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA