

Gordon Pack

gordonrpack@gmail.com

410-456-7034

HB 108 - Division of Correction – Release Preparation Program – Support

Dear Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee:

I am registered voter residing in legislative district 7a. I am a formerly incarcerated individual with four decades of program development and mentoring experience. I am employed as a parole advocate, intern program manager, and reentry coach. Also, I am a member of numerous committees, councils, and an appointed Commission focused on the MD's returning citizens.

Most of Maryland's incarcerated individuals return to the outside community by way of parole grants, mandatory releases, expiration of sentences, or court releases. Unfortunately, according to the 11/15/24 DPSCS Recidivism Report, 32% recidivate within three years. I believe the primary reason for recidivism is lack of preparedness.

While each incarcerated individual is responsible for preparing him or herself for release, we must be mindful that reentry is a public safety issue. The assumption that every individual has the wherewithal to reintegrate into the outside community alone is dangerous. Things change over the course of an individual's incarceration. The collateral consequences of criminal convictions extend beyond incarceration. Some II's fail to recognize the importance of preparing for reentry. Preparatory resources provided by DPSCS are limited. The provision of reentry resource materials alone at the time of exit may be the best we can do at this time, yet, can hardly be considered preparatory.

Returning citizens would benefit tremendously from structured reentry programming before release. Finding the funds to provide such programming is just as crucial as building an effective program. I am confident that DPSCS in conjunction with other stakeholders will be in a better position to curb recidivism when given the opportunity.

Thus, I urge this Honorable Committee to vote favorably for HB108.

/s/Gordon Pack
February 3, 2026