



TESTIMONY

SB0944 – Correctional Services – Reentry Readiness Program

Bill Sponsor: Senator Charles

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, CoChair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0944** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Too many returning citizens leave incarceration without the identification, records, or employment support necessary to secure housing, apply for jobs, or access healthcare. Without these basic tools, individuals face unnecessary barriers that increase the likelihood of instability and recidivism. SB0944 provides a structured, whole of government approach that helps people reenter their communities with dignity and a real chance at success.

For the Reentry Readiness Program, SB0944 brings together the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Motor Vehicle Administration, the Division of Vital Records, and the Department of Labor to ensure that individuals preparing for release have coordinated access to essential documents and services.

When returning citizens have the documents and support they need, they are far more likely to find employment, reconnect with family, and avoid the circumstances that lead to reoffending. SB0944 strengthens Maryland’s commitment to rehabilitation by ensuring that people are prepared for life after incarceration—not set up to fail.

SB0944 also aligns with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on transparency, accountability, and social justice. A coordinated reentry system reduces barriers, supports families, and strengthens communities across the state. Therefore, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0944.