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SB 0822 – Correctional Services – Maryland Parole Commission – Improvements in Transparency and Equity – Favorable with Amendments- Feb. 23, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am a Parole Advocate and the former chair of the Decarceration and Parole Subcommittee of the sunseting Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative (MEJC). The recommendations of this Subcommittee comprised of representatives from the Parole Commission, Division of Parole and Probation, DPSCS Case Management, Social Work and Program and Reentry services, Victim Rights Advocates, relatives of incarcerated Marylanders, Family Support organizations, legal clinics, law professors and parole advocates are reflected in this proposed legislation. Improving parole as a means of decarceration was the goal of this group of diverse stakeholders. Many of whom have onboarded to the Sentencing and Parole Workgroup of the Maryland Justice Partnership.

“Transparency, Consistency, and Detailed Rationale for Parole Decisions” was among several recommendations submitted to the leaders of MEJC which would be recommended by MEJC. It is refreshing to see that SB0822 even includes implementation procedures to bring about the desired outcome. I am grateful that the diverse stakeholders were consulted with the drafting of this Bill.

As SB0822 will improve MD’s parole scheme, I urge this Honorable Committee to vote in favor of this monumental Bill with the House sponsored amendments.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Gordon R. Pack