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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 61**

**TO:** Judicial Proceedings Committee Members  
**FROM:** Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)  
**DATE:** January 28, 2026  
**BILL:** Division of Correction - Release Preparation Program

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**MD LABOR POSITION: INFORMATION**

SB61 requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to establish a Release Preparation Program, funded by the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Fund. The program would allow formerly incarcerated individuals to access State correctional facilities to assist currently incarcerated individuals (IIs) with release preparation.

Connecting currently incarcerated individuals (IIs) with individuals who have been previously incarcerated is an important perspective that will positively impact IIs and reduce recidivism.

MD Labor's Office of Correctional Education (OCE) provides transitional programming to IIs who are preparing to reenter society to ensure students are prepared with what they will need for release and receive support as they return to their communities. Allowing currently incarcerated Marylanders to hear from formerly incarcerated people may encourage them to enter transitional programming altogether or enter a transitional course they may not have planned to take, both of which will better prepare them for a successful life after release.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as they evaluate SB 61. For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at [Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov).