

**2026 SB0101 Testimony For 2026-01-28.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

# Testimony For SB0101

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable report for SB0101.

I support adding correctional officers as eligible recipients in the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program.

I believe that correctional officers should get the same benefits as parole officers. Both groups have a thankless job with poor pay and poor working conditions. Even with better pay and working conditions, most of us would not seek these essential jobs.

We should show our appreciation for what they do to help keep us safe. So please enter a favorable report for SB0101.

Alan Lang  
45 Marys Mount Road  
Harwood, Maryland 20776  
Legislative District 30B  
410-336-9745  
[Alanlang1@verizon.net](mailto:Alanlang1@verizon.net)  
January 26, 2026

# **SB 101 Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correct**

Uploaded by: Beatrix Peck

Position: FAV



## Support

### Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment and Judicial Proceedings Committees *Senate Bill 101 (Bailey)* *Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers*

**Matt Power, President**  
[mpower@micua.org](mailto:mpower@micua.org)  
**January 28, 2026**

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the more than 56,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support regarding [SB 101 \(Bailey\) Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers](#), which adds correctional officers as eligible recipients of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program.

In summary, this bill expands the existing loan repayment and scholarship programs to include correctional officers, recognizing the critical role they play in maintaining public safety and their commitment to serving the State. By adding correctional officers to these programs, SB 101 acknowledges the risks and challenges they face daily, as well as their dedication to the well-being of our communities.

As institutions of higher education, we recognize the importance of supporting public servants who put their lives on the line every day. Correctional officers are no exception. They play a vital role in law enforcement, working tirelessly to maintain order and provide rehabilitation services within our correctional facilities. Like police officers, correctional officers are public servants who deserve our appreciation and support.

Including correctional officers in these programs is a well-deserved recognition of their service and commitment to the State. It also acknowledges the financial burdens they face in pursuing higher education, which is essential for career advancement and professional development. By providing loan repayment and scholarship opportunities, we can help alleviate some of these financial burdens and encourage more individuals to pursue careers in corrections.

We urge the Committees to support SB 101, which takes a crucial step in recognizing the value and contributions of correctional officers in our State. We believe that this bill will have a positive impact on the lives of these dedicated public servants and will ultimately benefit the communities they serve.

Thank you for considering our testimony. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

# **Testimony for SB 101.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher Morgan

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FEDERATION OF  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

John Ripley  
BCFPE President  
1801 Glen Keith Blvd., Suite 100  
Towson, Maryland 21286  
Ph: 410-296-1875  
Fax: 410-296-1879

January 28, 2026

RE: Favorable – SB 101: Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers

Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

First, I want to thank Senator Bailey for his diligent work on SB 101.

My name is Christopher Morgan and I am the Executive Vice President of the Baltimore County Federations of Public Employees who represents approximately 1600 Baltimore County Employees including over 300 active Baltimore County Department of Corrections Employees. I want to convey my support for Senate Bill 101. These men and women who serve the citizens of the state of Maryland do an immensely difficult job for 8 -16 hours a day, 5 or more days a week for 25 or more years. These men and women are providing a very important and essential service to the citizens of Maryland. These Correctional Officers play many vital rolls inside the walls of their facilities. During their shifts they are either rule enforcers, fire fighters, paramedics or mental health professionals and many times they fill all 4 of these roles in 1 shift.

The passing SB 101 would be very beneficial for these Correctional Officers personal and professional lives. It would assist them with making the decision to go back to school and seek higher education, not only benefiting themselves, but also the agencies that they serve.

I believe the passing of SB 101 would show that the state of Maryland thanks these hardworking Correctional Officers for their hard work.

Because of this, I strongly urge you to support SB 101.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Morgan  
Executive Vice President  
Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883  
1801 Glen Keith Blvd Suite #100  
Towson, Maryland 21286

# **SB 101 - Correctional Officers Scholarships and Lo**

Uploaded by: Denise Riley

Position: FAV



*A Union of Professionals*  
**AFT-Maryland**

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226  
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008  
md.aft.org

Kenya Campbell  
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
SB 101 - Higher Education - Loan Repayment and Scholarships for  
Correctional Officers  
January 28, 2026**

**FAVORABLE**

Chair Smith and members of the Committee, AFT Maryland supports SB 101, which seeks to add correctional officers as eligible recipients in the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program. This legislation represents a critical step to recognize the essential role that correctional officers play in our criminal justice system and provides them with the educational opportunities necessary for career advancement and professional development.

Correctional officers are an integral part of Maryland's public safety network. In the critical nature of their work, correctional officers often face significant professional challenges, including high levels of stress, demanding work conditions, and limited career advancement opportunities without further education. Expanding the existing scholarship program to include correctional officers acknowledges their service and provides them with a valuable resource to pursue higher education and training.

SB 101 aligns with Maryland's commitment to strengthen its public safety workforce by offering tuition assistance to those seeking to enter or advance within the field. By extending scholarships and loan repayments to correctional officers, the state can help attract and retain qualified individuals who are dedicated to maintaining safety and security in our correctional institutions. Moreover, higher education opportunities will enable these professionals to develop leadership skills, improve rehabilitation efforts, and contribute to evidence-based practices within the correctional system.

SB 101 is an investment in the education, training, and retention of Maryland's correctional officers. Their work is essential to public safety, and this legislation will help ensure they receive the support they need to succeed in their critical roles. We ask for a favorable report. Thank you.



**SB0101\_MACC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
January 28, 2026

**SB 101 - Higher Education - Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers**

**Position: Favorable**

---

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 101**. This bill expands eligibility for existing State loan repayment and scholarship programs to include correctional officers, recognizing their important role in Maryland's public safety workforce and supporting their access to higher education and career advancement.

Maryland's community colleges educate and train many students pursuing careers in corrections and related public safety fields, as well as individuals already employed in these professions who seek additional credentials or degrees. Correctional officers often juggle demanding work schedules with family responsibilities while pursuing education, and access to financial aid can be a key factor in their ability to enroll and complete postsecondary programs. Expanding these programs for correctional officers helps reduce financial barriers and supports ongoing professional development within the corrections workforce.

Expanding eligibility for these programs also supports recruitment and retention efforts in correctional facilities by offering educational incentives that encourage long-term service and workforce stability. SB 101 builds on well-established scholarship and loan repayment structures and extends them in a manner consistent with current State policy. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 101**.

Please contact Brad Phillips ([bphillips@mdacc.org](mailto:bphillips@mdacc.org)) or Drew Jabin ([djabin@mdacc.org](mailto:djabin@mdacc.org)) with questions.

**SenatorBailey\_FAV\_SB101.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

**JACK BAILEY**  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.maryland.gov

*District Office*  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

January 28, 2026

**Senate Bill 101 - Higher Education - Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 101. This bill would expand eligibility for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include correctional officers.

In 2021, as part of the Maryland Police Accountability Act, the General Assembly created the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and the Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program. These programs were created because of research which showed how higher education for police officers is beneficial to more than just the officer receiving the degree. A review of the research indicates that police officers who have graduated from college are less likely to be the subject of citizen complaints. In 2023, the General Assembly passed legislation to add probation agents to both programs, and in 2024, we passed legislation allowing police officers and probation agents to use this scholarship at community colleges in addition to four-year institutions. I strongly believe in this scholarship program and have been working with the Maryland Higher Education Commission on how to increase the utilization of these programs through greater outreach to our State's police officers.

Last year, I was approached by correctional officers in my district who shared with me that, as currently drafted, correctional officers are not included in the list of individuals who are eligible for these two programs. Therefore, I have introduced this bill to ensure that correctional officers are included in these programs. At this time when recruitment and retention of public safety officers in all fields, including correctional officers, is so critical, this bill will aid in those efforts while also providing the State with the benefits that come with more correctional officers receiving a college education.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 101. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey'.

Senator Jack Bailey

# **SB-101 Favorable Written Support - RIPLEY.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Ripley

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FEDERATION OF  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

John Ripley  
BCFPE President  
1801 Glen Keith Blvd., Suite 100  
Towson, Maryland 21286  
Ph: 410-296-1875  
Fax: 410-296-1879

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Judicial Proceeding Committee  
SB 101**

**Higher Education - Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers  
(Adding Correctional Officers)  
January 28, 2026  
SUPPORT / FAVORABLE**

Good morning, Honorable Members of the Judicial Committee.

My name is John Ripley, President of Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees (BCFPE Local #4883) representing Baltimore County Correctional Officers.

I respectfully call on this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB 101**, adding Correctional Officer to the police scholarship program.

Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women protect the public by safely maintaining the Care, Custody and Control of incarcerated individuals. Correctional officers are certified by the same Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) and have an equally dangerous jobs. Correctional Officer are not only partners in the Public Safety System, they are a true pillar of that system, ensuring success.

I urge you to support **SB 101**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883

# **SB101. MHEC. Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sanjay Rai

Position: FAV



January 28, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair,  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Governor**

Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**

Aruna Miller

**Secretary**

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.

**Commission Chair**

Catherine J. "Cassie" Motz

**Commission Vice Chair**

Chike Aguh

**Commissioners**

Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.

Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.

Barbara Kerr Howe

Narcisa A. Polonio, Ed.D.

Rebecca Taber Staehelin

Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Sarah Otwey, Student  
Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**

Kimberly Smith Ward

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 101 — Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers, sponsored by Senator Bailey. This legislation expands existing State loan repayment and scholarship programs for public safety professionals to include correctional officers, recognizing their essential role in maintaining public safety and supporting community stability

Senate Bill 101 would amend current law to make correctional officers eligible for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program. By extending these important financial incentives to correctional officers, the State strengthens recruitment and retention in a field that is critical to the safety and well-being of Maryland communities.

Public safety personnel, including correctional officers, serve on the front lines of justice and rehabilitation, often under challenging conditions. Access to loan repayment and scholarship support can lower barriers to entering and remaining in these careers, ultimately contributing to a more effective and stable public safety workforce.

MHEC supports the intent of Senate Bill 101 and appreciates the opportunity to expand access to existing scholarship and loan-repayment programs for correctional officers. To ensure successful implementation, the Commission notes the following considerations:

Effective and timely implementation will benefit from additional staffing and system resources to support expanded eligibility, maintain program integrity, and ensure accurate and equitable award administration.

Expanding eligibility to include an additional career pathway increases the number of individuals who may apply for existing scholarship and loan repayment programs. While Senate Bill 101 does not increase the total funding available for the scholarship or LARP, expanding eligibility may increase demand and competition within the existing funding structure.

**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

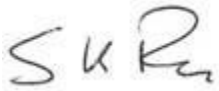
217 East Redwood Street • Suite 2100 • Baltimore, MD 21202

T 410.767.3300 • 800.974.0203 • F 410.332.0270 • TTY for the Deaf 800.735.2258 [www.mhec.maryland.gov](http://www.mhec.maryland.gov)

These considerations are provided to facilitate a smooth implementation and to maintain efficient, transparent program administration for all eligible applicants, without resulting in long-term fiscal operating costs.

For these reasons, the Maryland Higher Education Commission respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 101. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Meghan Music, Executive Director of External and Legislative Relations.

Yours in Service,

Handwritten signature of Sanjay Rai in black ink.

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.  
Secretary  
Maryland Higher Education Commission