

**HB 467/SB 822:** Correctional Services - Maryland Parole Commission - Improvements in Transparency and Equity: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee & Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SB 822/HB 467** during any further committee action, floor votes, or conference consideration.

I like many of the new requirements in this bill for the Maryland Parole Commission, including expanded annual reporting with detailed statistics on decisions, demographics, and equity metrics, on-the-record explanations for decisions, and public release of certain parole information. However, while transparency is important, this legislation overreaches by adding layers of bureaucracy and potential risks to an already strained correctional system.

Expanded mandatory reporting and proactive document provision could overwhelm Commission staff, divert resources from core duties like timely hearings and risk assessments, and increase administrative costs borne by taxpayers. Requiring public disclosure of parole-related details risks compromising sensitive information—such as victim statements, confidential informant data, or security concerns—that current laws protect to safeguard public safety and privacy. Prohibiting permanent denials (implying mandatory rehearings) could pressure the Commission toward more releases, **potentially releasing high-risk individuals prematurely and undermining judicial sentences or victim rights.**

Maryland's parole system already includes mechanisms for review, appeals, and public reporting without these expansive mandates. **Adding excessive procedural hurdles and disclosure rules could delay processes, invite litigation, and erode the Commission's discretion in balancing rehabilitation with community safety—especially for serious or violent offenders.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 822/HB 467.**

Thank you for your attention to this important public safety and correctional matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals