



**Testimony in Support of HB 1542 - Public Health - Goods, Services, or Technologies Used in  
Death Sentences - Prohibition  
Judiciary Committee Hearing Date: 3/10/26**

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Michele Kennedy-Kouadio, Vice President of A Mother's Cry (AMC). AMC supports House Bill 1542. As a voice for ~16,000 incarcerated people sentenced to terms in Maryland state prisons, AMC knows the impact that incarceration has on families and loved ones. Our advocacy is steeped in a faith that believes in mercy and redemption. Many individuals sentenced to life or long-term sentences were under the age of 24 years old when they were arrested. In 2013, Maryland abolished the death penalty, recognizing the grave risks, racial and economic inequities, and fundamental inhumanity of capital punishment. Maryland has yet to address the inhumanity of life without parole sentences, which is also a death sentence.

In the meantime, Maryland must align its commercial practices with its established legal and moral position against capital punishment. HB 1542 is a straightforward and necessary extension of the decision to end the death penalty. Having determined that they will not utilize capital punishment, MD should not permit companies licensed in MD to knowingly supply the drugs, devices, technologies, or services used to carry out capital punishment elsewhere.

Major pharmaceutical and medical companies have publicly opposed the use of their products in executions, emphasizing that their medicines and technologies are intended to treat patients, not to facilitate death. Healthcare professionals are ethically bound to preserve life and promote healing. Allowing the diversion of these products into execution protocols runs counter to these ethical standards and undermines public trust in the healthcare system. In addition, as reputable manufacturers refuse to participate in executions, the supply chain for execution materials has increasingly moved into opaque and unregulated markets. This creates risks related to safety, transparency, and regulatory compliance. MD should not become a jurisdiction that enables or legitimizes such activity.

Passing HB 1542 would ensure that Maryland does not become an indirect participant in executions carried out in other states. AMC has been actively working to improve prison

conditions that are leading to deaths behind the walls and stands up against any corporation that contributes to the death penalty in other states. We respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB 1542.

Sincerely,

Michele Kennedy Kouadio  
Vice President, A Mother's Cry