



March 6, 2026

Judiciary Committee  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Template Testimony in Support of HB 1542  
Keeping Maryland Out of the Execution Business**

Chair Barlett, Vice Chair Davis and Members of the Committee:

Out for Justice, Inc. (OFJ) is an organization led by individuals who are both directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal justice system. We advocate for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society. HB 1542 aligns Maryland's commercial practices with its established legal and moral position against capital punishment — a measured but necessary step that closes a critical gap in the state's existing framework.

In 2013, Maryland abolished the death penalty, recognizing the grave risks, racial and economic inequities, and fundamental inhumanity of capital punishment. HB 1542 is a straightforward and necessary extension of that decision. Having determined that they will not utilize capital punishment, we should not permit companies licensed here to knowingly supply the drugs, devices, technologies, or services used to carry them out elsewhere.

The legislation reflects the well-documented position of the healthcare and medical communities. Healthcare professionals are ethically bound to preserve life and promote healing. 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. 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. Maryland should not become a jurisdiction that enables or legitimizes such activity.



Passing HB 1542 would protect the integrity of Maryland businesses, affirm core medical ethics and public health principles, and ensure that Maryland does not become an indirect participant in executions carried out in other states.

We respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB 1542.