



OUT FOR JUSTICE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 438:**

**Adult Prison School Board Model Development Committee**

TO: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Out For Justice, Inc.

DATE: February 11th, 2026

Members of the Committee,

Out for Justice, Inc. respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 438, which establishes the Adult Prison School Board Model Development Committee. Out for Justice is a Baltimore based grassroots organization founded and led by formerly incarcerated individuals, working to dismantle systemic barriers and end perpetual punishment by advancing policies that support education, workforce development, and successful reentry.

Our mission is to engage, educate, and empower individuals impacted by the legal system to build collective power for dismantling harmful policies. Central to this mission is access to high quality educational opportunities, which are among the most effective tools for reducing recidivism, increasing economic stability, and improving long term public safety.

Correctional education in Maryland remains fragmented and inconsistently governed. House Bill 438 takes an important step toward addressing these challenges by creating a multidisciplinary committee to develop a comprehensive, accountable model for overseeing correctional education that aligns with statewide educational standards. The bill's focus on fiscal mapping and sustainable funding is especially critical to ensuring long term success.

By including representatives from education, labor, corrections, higher education, industry, and directly impacted individuals, this legislation recognizes that correctional education is a core public education function that deserves coordination, oversight, and investment.

For these reasons, Out for Justice respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 438.