

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL #HB1476

**Independent Oversight and Review Board for Health Care of Inmates in State
Correctional Facilities-Establishment**

Date: February 28, 2020

From: Jessica Burgard, law student at University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

To: Chairman Luke Clippinger, Madame Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: SUPPORT FOR BILL#HB1476

Maryland taxpayers are spending an enormous amount of money for medical contractor Corizon to shortchange health services for prisoners. This contractor has allowed diseases to spread unchecked, withheld prescription medications from prisoners, and failed to provide care in medical emergencies.

Taxpayers demand that Maryland gets what it pays for. Maryland voters do not want extreme suffering and constitutional violations in our prisons. Corizon is notorious across the country for failing to meet minimum medical standards. Maryland must hold it accountable to its contract and to a constitutional standard of care.

Patients inside of prisons are invisible – there is nobody to blow the whistle. Only comprehensive monitoring with independent oversight will solve the problem. I urge you on behalf of all Maryland taxpayers to fight for what is due to us. Finally, please help these men and women who are suffering behind bars. They vote and so do their friends and families. We ask you to return our trust and support HB 1476.

Respectfully submitted,



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