



Nick J. Mosby, *President*
Baltimore City Council

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January 26, 2021

To: **Members of the House Judiciary Committee**
Re: **HB 316 – Conditions of Pretrial Release – Home Detention
Monitoring**
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 316, Conditions of Pretrial Release – Home Detention Monitoring. If passed, this bill will provide fee waivers for home detention monitoring services. As the primary sponsor of similar legislation during the 2020 session, I view this bill as an opportunity to address existing inequities within our criminal justice system that effectively create two systems of justice – one for those who can afford their freedom and another for those who cannot.

The impact of these dire economic times is even further exacerbated for those with a criminal record, which is a significant barrier to employment. Despite this known obstacle, those who interact with the criminal justice system are levied with fees and other criminal justice system fines, that many can never repay, just to access pretrial release. This is unacceptable, especially when our state has committed to moving away from “cash bail.” This current system of home detention monitoring fees is a similarly situated system and should be met with the same swift action.

As the leader of the Baltimore City Council, I am intimately aware of the precarious circumstances that these fees place our residents in. Additionally, on Jan. 13, 2021, during our first meeting of the year, I introduced a resolution in support of this exact kind of legislation. HB 316 is a monumental step towards fairness and equal treatment under the law.

I thank my former colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for their attention to this bill and respectfully ask for a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick J. Mosby".

Nick J. Mosby
President, Baltimore City Council