



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 277 – MARYLAND LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM CENTER –
DIVISION OF CORRECTION – DATA REQUIREMENT**

Sponsor: Senator McCray

February 10, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 277 would require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to share data with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to track the long term incarceration and recidivism outcomes for formerly and currently incarcerated individuals. The correctional service data would be used to track an individual's participation in education and training programs, work release participation, need for support related to housing, health care, substance abuse treatment, etc, demographic data such as age, race and gender, and recidivism rates.

The GBC supports Senate Bill 277 because it would provide key metrics to identify those justice involved individuals best prepared to return to the workforce. In the United States, almost one out of every three adults has a criminal record; that is roughly the same percentage of Americans with four year college degrees. While employers are hesitant to employ individuals with criminal backgrounds, the resulting effect is the underutilization of a massive percentage of the potential workforce. The GBC contends that this longitudinal data can help identify effective programs and initiatives to maximize the percentage of formerly incarcerated individuals who can effectively return to the workforce. Identifying the best practices for aiding former inmates return to work is a key factor in reducing recidivism and unlocking the workforce potential of returning citizens.

This bill is consistent with a key tenet in *Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth.

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland's business needs. Maryland's secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland's business sectors.

Meeting Maryland's business needs requires the mobilization of the entire workforce. Initiatives to promote best practices in fostering beneficial return to work outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals is crucial to that end.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 277.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org