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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 277

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – Division of Correction – Data 3 Requirement

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write to urge you to **support Senate Bill 277**. It is critically necessary that key agencies provide correctional services data to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (“the Center”) to increase efficiency within our public safety systems.

Under Senate Bill 277, The Division of Correction, which is within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, will be directed to provide the Center with information on arrest and incarceration data—including but not limited trends, metrics, and other related items. Organizations, like the Abell Foundation, find that more information is needed on parole, probation, and other inmate-related factors. It is necessary that we implement measures to ensure more efficient research-based efforts and an overall shared understanding of incarcerated populations. In requiring the Division of Correction to submit correctional services data to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, we will accomplish this, as well as foster an environment of systemic transparency and awareness.

Access to specific arrest and incarceration data would provide the Center and other appropriate agencies with critically important information on inmates—as individuals and as an aggregate. It is one step that will greatly impact the trajectory of our efforts in analyzing information on incarcerated populations and supporting our public safety systems.

If enacted, Senate Bill 277 will take effect on July 1, 2022, and will require the adoption of new practices in accordance with the change in law.

For the aforementioned reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 277.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45th District