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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

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Administrative, Executive, and
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Children, Youth, and Families

Senate Chair
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Baltimore County Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony Regarding SB 293
Corrections – Incarcerated Individuals
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 15, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Smith, and Committee Members,

Senate Bill 293 is a modest yet important bill which alters the term “inmate” to “incarcerated individual” in the Maryland Corrections Article. While a seemingly semantic change, the term inmate has been shown to have negative effects on an individual, who will likely reenter society after serving his or her time incarcerated, which makes this bill an important addition to Maryland Law.

Senate Bill 293 is modeled on a New York State law passed during the summer of 2022. Similar to New York’s law, SB 293 amends a term in Maryland law that is outdated and/or offensive. The Maryland General Assembly has already adopted the terminology “incarcerated individual” in writing its legislation. This follows on the heels of movements to correct and update phrases such as “mentally retarded,” (modern: developmentally disabled) and anything with “man” at the end that is gender polarizing (i.e.: postman and fireman with postal worker and fire fighter).

For these reasons, I ask you to vote favorably in support of SB 293.