

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



What? MAJR General Meeting

When? December 8, 7pm

Where? Zoom

Why? Learn about MAJR's Prison Progress Plan

And? Learn what you can do in the 2021 Session

Register for this Zoom meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Only a few weeks left until the 2021 Legislative Session begins on January 13. Learn how you can help.

MAJR's Prison Progress Plan

In 2021, MAJR asks legislators to remember the poor conditions in Maryland prisons—despite the heroic efforts of our new DPSCS Secretary Rob Green and many dedicated prison professionals. With **MAJR's Prison Progress Plan**, we invite legislators to “press the reset button” to begin making foundational changes for the better.

Key pieces of MAJR's prison progress plan include:

- Create a [Maryland Correctional Ombuds office](#) within the existing budget, similar to those in sister states, to provide independent insights on recurring problems within the current prison system;
- Conduct a study of a [Maryland Model Youthful Offenders prison pilot](#) within the existing budget and with grant assistance – focusing resources on highest risk offenders to reduce their likelihood of reoffending;
- Establish new [incentives for educational achievements](#)—at no cost to taxpayers – which constitute one of the strongest evidence-based factors

for reducing recidivism;

- Establish a [Maryland Reentry Council](#) to connect State, local and nonprofit reentry units to connect returning citizens with needed resources even before their release dates. Individuals with effective reentry programs show much lower recidivism rates.
- Eliminate [overuse of “restrictive housing”](#) that can aggravate prisoner’s mental health problems and lead to more problems upon release.
- Last, but not least, MAJR encourages lawmakers to adopt various measures to [make Parole truly fair and effective -- removing politics out of this process](#), taking a [“Second Look” at juvenile offenders caught in Maryland’s legal-fiction of “felony-murder,”](#) and [releasing prisoners whose medical conditions make them a burden on prisons’ healthcare systems and low-risk candidates for return to their communities.](#)

Together, this **2021 plan for Prison Progress** could substantially reduce Maryland’s correctional population, save taxpayer funds, and focus rehabilitative resources more effectively on the higher-risk prisoner who remain.

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MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over fifty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.

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