

## MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Join us in Annapolis to urge our legislators to support critical initiatives.

**Register NOW for this event to reserve your space.**

### **When do we lobby?**

Wednesday, March 7

10:15am - 1:00pm

### **Where do we meet?**

House Office Building Room 142

6 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

- 10:15-10:30 Lobby Day check-in and seating
- 10:30-11:15 Lobby Day presentation, partnering, practice
- 11:15-12:30 Visit offices of legislators
- 12:30-1:00 Return with feedback

MAJR will supply fact sheets and talking points. Legislators and their staff will be expecting you.

Among the initiatives we will be pursuing are:

**SUPPORT:** Correctional Education legislation as a better, less costly and proven means of reducing recidivism. ([HB291/SB1137](#) and [HB295/SB1113](#)). See our Issue Brief on [Education behind the walls](#).

**SUPPORT:** Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund ([HB447/SB1156](#)). Bring all counties up to a higher standard of Pretrial Services. See our Issue Brief on [pretrial programs](#).

**OPPOSE:** Governor Hogan's "Tough-on-Crime" legislation, which works against the Justice Reinvestment Act's policies. ([HB100/SB199](#), [HB101/SB197](#), [HB102/SB198](#)). See our Issue Brief on ["Smart on Crime"](#).

[Register NOW for this event to reserve your space](#). Click [HERE](#) to register!

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## Smart on Crime

Governor Hogan should be congratulated for [offering State support](#) to Baltimore City's efforts to make our communities stronger and safer.

Most of the Governor's proposals are right on target and include organizing law enforcement for gangs and other offenders who cross City and county lines; directing state police to offer needed back-up for City police; and adding more intensive parole and probation support.

But two parts of the Governor's proposal, mandatory increased sentences, and denial of parole for repeat offenders, seek to revert to "Tough-on-Crime" policies that might aggravate the problem, not solve it. Such punishments, according to a 2015 [Pew Institute study](#) of Maryland's criminal justice system, do not make a significant contribution to the reduction of recidivism, but they do cost taxpayers more for prisons.

Governor Hogan has taken a major step to revamp the Criminal Justice System in Maryland with his support for the passage of the 2016 [Justice Reinvestment Act](#) and ongoing efforts to implement it. Let's pursue that initiative and develop



a more comprehensive approach to Maryland's problems of violent criminal behavior.

See the details of MAJR's proposal at: <http://www.ma4jr.org/smart-on-crime-2/>

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MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over forty 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.

**Help us by forwarding this newsletter to your community!**

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