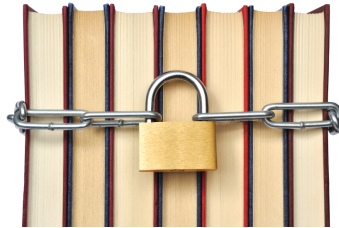


MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Action Alert! Stop Limiting Books In Maryland Prisons

The free speech rights of prisoners in Maryland are being violated by the newly-enacted Institutional Bulletin # 2018-02. The Department of Corrections rule categorically forbids gift books even when sent directly from a seller like Amazon to people detained in Maryland prisons. It forces prisoners to purchase books from one of two private vendors with extremely limited book offerings. Family members no longer can send books. And it prohibits any person in custody from possessing more than 10 books.

The senseless and harsh new restrictions on books are utterly inconsistent with the First Amendment and reflect the poor policy that makes Maryland one of the worst prison States.

Depriving prisoners of opportunities to read and limiting their ability to do so further shackles the incarcerated. We know that education is widely recognized as one of the most powerful deterrents of institutional misconduct and recidivism, as are familial and other community connections.

Take Action Now!

Demand that Secretary Stephen Moyer and the Maryland Correctional Wardens rescind this restrictive policy. Join others in this campaign for a more sensible policy. Put your words into action with the [ACLU campaign](#).

Tell Your Candidates!

There is a less than a month left to the Maryland Primary election. MAJR urges its supporters to write to candidates who are running in your legislative district. Ask them if they are aware of the Department of Correction's policy. Please urge them if elected to support legislation that would allow greater access to books and materials for the incarcerated in Maryland's prisons.

To find out who is running in your district, [please click here](#). You will find a list of districts. Click on your district and you will see a list of candidates with their email addresses. Not sure of your district? [Click here](#).

Forward this message to your candidates!

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.