

Time to take action!

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MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Take action for Maryland Justice Reform – Now!

Now is the time to take action! *You are needed.*

Several excellent bills MAJR supports are being considered by our legislators. The time is ripe for you to contact your legislators, urge them to support critical legislation you care about, and tell them why it matters. If you know they already support the legislation, thanks are in order.

Here are four bills that are on the move in Annapolis and need your support. MAJR's website provides an easy way for you to send a strong message to your own legislators. After you provide basic identification, you can click on links to pre-crafted action alerts, personalize the text, and send them with a click.

(1) Remove the Governor from Parole Decisions [HB003/SB202]

Only 3 states give their Governor the right to deny parole to lifers - and Maryland is one of them. Maryland Governors have denied parole for lifers who have been recommended for release by the Parole Commission. We need to allow the Parole Commission to do its job!

(2) Legalize Marijuana [HB032/SB708]

The merchandizing of drugs like alcohol and marijuana are handled differently. One is legalized and regulated, while the other is illegal and possession is criminalized. The number of people currently incarcerated in our prisons and detention centers for marijuana possession is alarming, and racial patterns in criminal penalties are well documented. Let's change this picture!

(3) Felony Murder [HB385/SB395]

Can people be found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison if the Court knows they didn't kill anyone? In Maryland, the answer is yes because of our State's legal-fiction known as the "felony-murder rule." If you are simply present for a crime, you can be sentenced as if you committed it yourself. Sound fair to you?

This bill would prevent life sentences under the felony-murder rule for Maryland children (under age 18 years) involved in such cases, although they still could be sentenced for the intended offence. It also would allow similar sentence modification for those still serving a sentence for felony-murder involvement as children.

(4) Citation instead of Arrest [HB445/SB671]

Even simple possession of drugs can result in a person being sent to jail. Just as police can issue traffic tickets instead of arresting everyone they stop, why not give our police the choice of being able to issue a citation instead of going through the time and effort required to arrest people for minor offenses? Save time, money, and lives with this simple, common-sensical change.

Click on this link and let your voice be heard in Annapolis!



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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