



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Delegate

Unfortunately, Governor Hogan vetoed important legislation that passed the House and the Senate in March 2020. We have learned that the House and Senate are on the brink of taking action! Please cast your vote to override these vetoes:

(1) The Women's Pre-release Facility bill (HB801/SB684) would help the women in Maryland prisons benefit from employment and reentry services.

The ONLY pre-release opportunities currently offered to women inmates are located in Jessup in Anne Arundel County, nearly 20 miles from Baltimore and functionally disconnected from the City's public transportation system. Thanks to a short-sighted decision to close a center for women a decade ago to save money, the only services currently offered to women are found within the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women. Meanwhile, there are five facilities for men. Can't we have just one solely for women as well?

(2) The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) implements the substantial public education reforms suggested by the Kirwan Commission.

In May this bill was vetoed by the Governor who stated concerns about the expense during the COVID crisis. However, we question whether a veto was necessary since the Blueprint bill already contains a 'pause button' that delays implementation in any year in which state revenues declined by 7.5% or more over the previous year (HB1300:19(b)).

The Blueprint is indispensable for equalizing school resources for children in disadvantaged communities. It will help end the 'school-to-prison pipeline' with alternatives to suspension or expulsion and job training for those unable to attend college.

I am asking you as my representative in Annapolis to use your vote to override the Governor's vetoes.

Sincerely,