



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Senator

I write you on behalf of Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform with a request for your help to ensure committee votes on certain pending bills.

We know that the General Assembly is busy in this COVID-hampered Session with important concerns such as COVID-budgeting, police reform, and marijuana legalization. But smaller bills that offer taxpayer savings, bipartisan support, and improvements to our criminal justice system should not be overlooked.

Particularly, we ask that you take steps to ensure that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee vote on the following bills before the 3/16/21 deadline:

SB0397 – Diminution Credits for Education:

In recent years, Maryland law diluted “diminution credits” by giving equal time off sentences for any “assigned tasks” (such as sweeping the floor) regardless of tasks' minimal value towards rehabilitation. This bill restores incentives for both education and employment accomplishments, both proven to reduce recidivism.

SB0853 – Juvenile Justice Reform:

This bill would effectively use the Justice Reinvestment model to transform our State’s juvenile justice system, to reduce its overuse of confinement, and to make better use of restorative techniques.

Thank you for your help to keep our criminal justice system functioning fairly and efficiently for all Marylanders, despite these difficult times.

Sincerely,