

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



MAJR Muster Action Alerts

How MAJR works with Muster

With your assistance MAJR is following a large number of bills in the 2022 legislative session. See our [dynamically updated page](#) where status and actions are displayed.

Most of our legislation is currently being heard by the Judicial Proceedings Committee of the Senate or the Judiciary Committee of the House. This is step 3 of a 9 step process for a piece of legislation. See the [Georgetown University Guide to Maryland Legislation](#). This step is a critically important one, because a bill that does not come out of committee is obviously going nowhere.

MAJR has delivered testimony on ten of the bills it is following. Using Muster, MAJR has asked the constituents of members of these key committees to write their legislators urging them to approve the bill in question, or to let us know why not.

Frequently Asked Questions about Muster

Q: Why did I not get the opportunity to contact my legislator on these bills? Why did I not receive a Muster?

A: Two possible reasons. First, at this stage, only the constituents of members of those committees are being asked to contact their representative. Second, you might have been asked, but our ask ended up in your spam folder. Please check. We have asked 600-800 people to contact their representatives and only 16% have on average responded.

Q: When will I get a chance?

A: As soon as the bill is reported out of committee and arrives at door of the full House or Senate everyone will receive an action alert.

Our Muster Action Alerts

Here is a look at the important Musters which have been sent in the last month: You can see the full detail by clicking on the Muster links on [our legislation page](#).

Most states allow police, during interrogations, to lie in order to get a confession from the suspect. This can include claiming that there was DNA evidence, or claiming that one of the other suspects in a group already confessed, or that someone has informed on the suspect. Statistics suggest that children are persuaded by police to make false confessions at a rate three times higher than adults. ([read more](#))

Juvenile Justice 2/7/2022

How do we treat our children who have been accused of a crime? Do Marylanders consider youthful offenders too risky to have their day in juvenile courts? Between 2013 and 2020, 7,800 minors were charged as adults — and 80% of them were Black. Can we continue to be blind to such racial disparity? ([read more](#))

Correctional Ombudsman 2/13/2022

Prisons in Maryland are dangerous and unhealthy. Incarcerated individuals are often subjected to acts of violence and other abuse from others, sometimes from staff. Incarcerated individuals often have trouble obtaining adequate medical care, examinations, diagnostic tests and medication. Incarcerated individuals often have trouble worshipping as they wish. ([read more](#))

Compassionate Release 2/20/2022

At what cost do we keep the elderly, the sick, the infirm in prison? Does Maryland have an effective approach to compassionate release? As noted by Senator Hettleman, “Capital punishment was abolished in Maryland as a failed and immoral policy in 2013 because it was ineffectual in deterring crime, could not be administered without racial bias, and cost three times that of incarcerating someone for life. ([read more](#))

Plea-Bargaining Transparency 2/28/2022

Justice Anthony Kennedy said on behalf of the Supreme Court majority that plea bargaining determines “who goes to jail and for how long. It is not some adjunct to the criminal justice system. It is the criminal justice system,” Shouldn’t we know how well our plea bargaining justice system works in Maryland? ([read more](#))

Thanks to those who have been involved with our Musters, and we expect to ask for everyone's help in March and April. Stay tuned.

MAJR is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer 501(c)4 organization of more than 1800 Marylanders and over 50 endorsing organizations in every part of the state who advocate for evidence-based legislative and policy changes in Maryland’s correctional practices. We support effective alternatives to incarceration, policies to address inequities, and efforts to allow citizens returning from prison to lead productive lives.

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