

Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Working together for a criminal justice system that better serves our communities



**Re: Support for SB 815 – Correctional Services – Maryland Correctional Enterprises – Report
March 5, 2026**

Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), a statewide, all-volunteer organization with more than 2,000 members, I am writing to respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 815.

This bill takes a thoughtful and evidence-based step toward strengthening reentry outcomes by requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), in collaboration with a Maryland institution of higher education, to study correctional industry programs in Maine, Ohio, Kansas, and California and to recommend improvements to Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE).

Work and vocational training during incarceration can be powerful tools for rehabilitation—but only when they are aligned with real labor market opportunities, provide meaningful skill development, and connect directly to post-release employment pathways. SB 815 recognizes that Maryland can and should learn from other states that have modernized their correctional industries to focus on workforce credentials, employer partnerships, and measurable reentry outcomes.

Too often, incarcerated individuals leave prison with limited savings, few recognized credentials, and little connection to employers willing to hire them. By examining models in other jurisdictions and partnering with higher education researchers, Maryland can ensure that MCE programs prepare participants for sustainable employment, reduce recidivism, and strengthen families and communities.

Improving correctional industry programs is not only a matter of fairness and opportunity—it is also sound public policy. When returning citizens secure stable employment, public safety improves, correctional costs decline, and communities benefit from increased economic participation.

MAJR believes SB 815 represents smart governance: study what works, collaborate with experts, and build a system that promotes accountability, dignity, and successful reentry. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 815.

Sincerely,

Lucy Y. Steinitz, Ph.D.

(on behalf of MAJR. steinitz@me.com/ 443-410-2008)

Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, Inc.

351 Dubois Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401
Organization

www.ma4jr.org

A 501c(4) Non-profit Advocacy