



Maryland
Justice
Project

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0828
Women's Pre-release Equity Act

To: Chairman Luke Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Etta Myers Maryland Justice Project, Volunteer

Date: 2/12/2020

Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Etta Myers I am a formerly incarcerated woman. I served 38 years in the Maryland Correctional Institution for Woman. I had the privilege of engaging the Pre-release/Work Release system if I remember correctly 1987-1993. While I was there I the program assisted us women in developing and being the best person, we could be. The mental health, the therapy, the recovery from addiction, education, anger management, spiritual growth, resocialization, family unification. Employment, and financial enrichment classes. I was 34 at that time and ready to take a positive plunge at life again. Unfortunately, Rodney Stokes committed a terrible offense and I was checked back in to MCIW where I served an additional 20 years for something, I had no part in until the Unger decision released me. I ask you what kind of people release folks with to fend for themselves giving them the state cloths they wore in prison and what little one has in their account. Individuals leaving prison are broken, lonely, insecure and in real fear about how to make it day by day. Women deserve the opportunity to be the best they can be. I plead with you to give the woman behind bars a real chance. Vote in favor of HB0828.