

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE INSIDE

c/o NPCMF 1323 N. Calvert Street – Suite A Baltimore, MD 21202 http://www.rjinside.org

HB 1414 – Correctional Services – Standards at State Correctional Facilities

Position: Support

Chairman Clippinger
Vice Chair Atterbeary
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Reproductive Justice Inside (RJI) and our coalition members and partners stand in support of HB 1414. RJI is Maryland's only statewide coalition working to address the needs of systems-involved individuals and their access to quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare and the right to parent with dignity.

HB 1414 will mandate that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services report out on issues that have long been overlooked. For several years, advocates and legislators alike have tried to get information on practices within our state systems. All to no avail. As a result, issues cannot be addressed because we have no information – you cannot address what you cannot see, and you cannot see what they won't show.

Perhaps the most compelling part of HB 1414 is the requirement that DPSCS work to aid those returning to our communities with job skills, training programs and opportunities that are reflective of the current and emerging job market. HB 1414 encourages DPSCS to forge relationships and partnerships with community-based partners that are best able to provide community support upon their return.

We all have a stake in the successful reentry of our citizens. We must work collaboratively to create and support the systems that set individuals and their communities to be successful – but it also requires that DPSCS become an active participant in the process.

HB 1414 is good legislation and the Reproductive Justice Inside Coalition, its members and allies urge your support and favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven
Reproductive Justice Inside
Coalition Coordinator