

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2025

Jo Shifrin
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TESTIMONY ON SB 694 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services - Assessment of State Correctional System

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 694, Correctional Services - Assessment of State Correctional System.

I moved to Bethesda 10 years ago to be near my grandchildren. My support for this legislation comes from my grounding in Jewish values. Among these values are *Tikkun Olam*, an obligation to make the world a more fair and equitable place for people to live.

I believe that the way we incarcerate people leads to higher costs for the state. I also believe that the way incarcerated people are treated does not result in them being able to re-enter society as productive, law-abiding members of the community. There are best practices in other states and in other countries that we could learn from and replicate here in Maryland. And I believe that the best way to achieve that is to do an assessment of the system, look at what is not working and change it.

I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on SB 694.