



MARYLAND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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January 26, 2026

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Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 187 – Correctional Services – Comprehensive Prerelease Services – Female Incarcerated Individuals

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to **report favorably on SB 187**.

Senate Bill 187, which strengthens Maryland's prerelease and reentry framework for incarcerated women through a comprehensive, evidence-based, and gender-responsive approach. By requiring a dedicated prerelease facility and mandating rehabilitative services tailored to women's needs, this bill addresses longstanding deficiencies in how the correctional system prepares women for safe and successful reentry into their communities.

Women in custody disproportionately experience trauma, mental health challenges, caregiving disruptions, and economic instability. SB 187 appropriately responds by requiring trauma-informed services, access to education and workforce training, health and behavioral health care, and individualized reentry planning. These measures reflect best practices in correctional rehabilitation and are associated with improved reentry outcomes, reduced recidivism, and stronger family and community stability.

Finally, SB 187 includes clear timelines, procurement requirements, and independent oversight to ensure accountability and transparency in implementation. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the General Assembly to support SB 187 and advance a correctional policy that promotes rehabilitation, public safety, and long-term community well-being.

We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 187**. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D. at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

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President

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Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs