



Testimony of American Association of University Women of Anne Arundel County

to the

Maryland General Assembly Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

in support of

**Senate Bill 187: Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services – Female Incarcerated
Individuals**

Submitted by Roxann King, President, AAUW Anne Arundel County, 2535 Painter Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

Please provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 187, the revised Pre-release Center for Incarcerated Women. Please make it a good place for women to learn how to restart their lives.

I have been lobbying for this bill for about ten years. The first year I explained the bill to Women of Like Mind, a women's group in Annapolis. One of the women was a teacher in Baltimore. She related how distressed a mother of one of her students was, when she was released, could not find a job, had to support her children, and wanted the best for her family. It is hard to believe we are still fighting for a center that would treat women well, in the way that men are treated by our State.

The center needs to have at least 2 acres and room to park so that families can visit safely, spend time outdoors, and the women could possibly even garden.

The center needs to accommodate all the women expecting pre-release. This is important to all of them. It needs to house the training that is specific to women preparing to take on roles as caretakers and providers of families. It needs to provide on-site support for starting without drugs or alcohol or any of the things that can lead right back to prison.

It needs to be in a neighborhood that is not known as high crime or drug-infested and unsafe for family visitation. The DPW site is only 0.97 acres. That won't work. But locating in or near Baltimore is desirable since over 40% of the women will return to families in Baltimore.

A building that can only accommodate 64 women does not meet the needs of the pre-release population. The previously closed center accommodated 144 women.

Please make this happen in a way that gives these Maryland women a hope of becoming good citizens and mothers. Support Senate Bill 187 as best you can.