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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**Bill Number: SB 682**

**Title: Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate**

**Hearing Date: February 26, 2020**

**Position: Support**

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *Senate Bill 682 – Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate*. This bill would require the Commissioner to establish a pre-release correctional unit for women. Currently, the State is only authorized to do so, but is not required.

PPM believes in restorative justice, and a crucial part of this is ensuring that incarcerated individuals have the best opportunity possible to establish themselves as soon as they are released. We have a responsibility to ensure that women have access to pre-release services, as delineated in this bill.

Pre-release facilities boast significantly reduced recidivism rates vs. statewide averages (Toppin 2015; Montgomery County DOCR 2015). The State of Maryland clearly recognizes this need already, with three pre-release centers and five other minimum-security facilities statewide. But none of these houses women. Women should have the same opportunity to obtain education, health care, and social support services.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.