



## GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**Testimony on:** SB 682, SB 683, SB 684—Gender Responsive Pre-Release Act  
**Position:** Support  
**Hearing Date:** February 26, 2020

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this letter in support of companion bills SB 682, SB 683, and SB 684 to establish equitable pre-release services for Maryland's incarcerated women. It is imperative, if Maryland wishes to reduce recidivism and reduce costs of incarceration, that Maryland's incarcerated female population have the same access to a pre-release facility as men.

**These companion bills** would require the Department of Corrections to offer a dedicated pre-lease center for incarcerated women in Maryland.

**We support this legislation for the following reasons:**

- **The number of women in Maryland prisons remains stagnant, while the number of men incarcerated is going down.**
- **A majority of incarcerated women in Maryland are primary caretakers; many are single parents.**
- **Incarcerated women facing societal reentry in Maryland are housed in unsafe maximum-security locations, where the assault rate is higher than at pre-release centers for men.**
- **Women need the same opportunity to prepare for release as men in Maryland.**
- **According to the Maryland Legislative Task Force, a community-based pre-release setting increases the likelihood of successful re-entry and decreases the likelihood of recidivism.**

### Conclusion

This bill provides multiple benefits to Maryland citizens. Of principle importance to our organization, it provides equal treatment of the genders, prepares women for a successful re-entry into society, and decreases the chance that such women will be incarcerated again. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.

*Glen Echo Heights Mobilization is a group of local residents that meets regularly to discuss and take actions to make progressive change happen at the municipal, county, state and federal levels.*