



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Delegate Trent Kittleman, President
Women's Caucus, Maryland General Assembly

Date: 2/26/2020

Re: SB682 "Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate"

The Women's Legislative Caucus respectfully submits our support for SB682 "Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate."

As you may know, the Maryland Women's Legislative Caucus is a bi-partisan group of 73 women legislators and 8 associate male legislators who are currently serving in the Maryland General Assembly. The Caucus supports legislation that directly affect women and has bi-partisan support.

On January 29th of this year, the members of the Caucus voted unanimously to support SB682 legislation which requires, instead of authorizes, the Commissioner of Correction to operate a prerelease unit for women.

Women in Maryland who are completing their sentences should have the same opportunities as men to prepare for re-entry after incarceration. Currently, there are nine prerelease units for men and none for women. These units help with the development of life skills and job readiness that women will need to provide for themselves and their families. Prerelease units are a good investment for the whole community as its "graduates" are more likely to be successful in their transition back into their families and communities.

The Caucus respectfully requests a positive action on SB682 "Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate."