



**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS  
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 18, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary Vice Chair

Members of the Judiciary Committee

As President of the Women's Legislative Caucus, I am pleased to submit our support for HB608 (Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield (D-Montgomery County)/SB682 (Senator Mary Washington (D-Baltimore City) "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 bills that directly affect women and have bi-partisan support. On January 29th of this year, the members of the Women's Caucus voted unanimously to support this 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 experiences help with the development of independent living skills to support them provide for themselves and their families. Prerelease units are a good investment for the whole community so that these individuals can go on to contribute to society.

The Caucus respectfully requests a positive action on behalf of HB608.

Sincerely,

Delegate Trent Kittleman, President