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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 21  
**Title:** Criminal Procedure - Sentencing - Primary Caretaker  
**Hearing:** February 1, 2022  
**Position:** Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *Senate Bill 21 - Criminal Procedure - Sentencing - Primary Caretaker*.

As the leading reproductive health care provider in the state, Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) strives toward reproductive justice for its patients and the communities served by PPM. Reproductive justice is the right to choose when or whether to have children, and the right to raise those children in a safe and healthy environment.

Children with incarcerated mothers have higher rates of incarceration themselves; parental incarceration is also associated with more antisocial behaviors, mental health issues, drug use, school suspension and expulsion, and economic challenges.

This legislation allows for community-based sentencing alternatives, which reduces recidivism among parents, leads to better health outcomes for the children, and costs less than incarceration.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).