



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

The Honorable William Smith, Chairman
And Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **SB 761** – Correctional Facilities – Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex Inmates – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

The 1,426 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly oppose SB 761 that will allow biological male prisoners who identify as female to be housed in a women's correctional facility in a cell with a biological woman. This legislation places women inmates in serious danger of attack.

Women inmates deserve to be treated with respect and to be housed in a safe manner. There is no safety for a biological woman placed in a cell with a biological male choosing to identify as female. Privacy is very limited in a prison. Showers and toilets are not private. Any inmate is vulnerable in these circumstances. Adding an additional danger by housing biological males in a women's facility is unacceptable and unsafe. It is not difficult to see why male inmates would choose to make such a declaration and be housed in a women's facility. In the State of Washington, this practice has led to women being attacked and resulted in at least one forced pregnancy.

Treating transgender, non-binary, or intersex individuals with respect does not require housing them in a women's prison. Separate housing facilities specifically for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex inmates is a safe alternative for all inmates. Housing them in a correctional facility for inmates other than their biological gender is not the answer.

There is a distinct movement to degrade the unique characteristics and biology of women, and to remove all separate and safe places for women. SB 761 would do just that – wipe out any safety for women inmates in Maryland correctional facilities.

Please give **SB 761** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women