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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 15, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
East Miller Senate Office Building, Room 2  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr.,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **SB71 Correctional Services – Pregnancy and Postpartum Support (Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act)**. This legislation has been identified as one of our priorities for the 2024 legislative session.

This bill the Division of Correction to allow a certain pregnant woman and a certain woman who recently gave birth to transfer to the prerelease unit for women for 1 year following the birth. This legislation ensures the creation of the Healthy Start Bonding Program to allow incarcerated women to bond with their children. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support women and children and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson  
President