

Elva Reid # 2049732

MCIW

January 2024

SB0134/HB0297

To the Maryland General Assembly Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary committees

My name is Elva. I have been incarcerated since 2000 at MCIW. One of my biggest issues is not receiving my mail on time or my money orders notification. We have a system that is supposed to notify us when a money order comes in, who the sender is and the amount. Through all the changes that we have seen it is now at the point where I would see a money order and the amount on our electronic tablets but no mention of who the sender is. This has happened to me time and time again. I wrote to the finance office for the information of who the sender was of two money orders that was delivered 9/6/23 and as of today I have not received a response. I feel at this time if there was an ombudsman that I could communicate my issue to then I would not have to worry that my money is not reaching me. I support a favorable vote in support of this bill.

Not having an independent oversight makes me feel as if there is no one interested in my welfare. Another issue is money going out of our account. There used to be a form that was duplicated; now there is not. I sent a money order to my son and the money was taken out 9/7/23 from my account he just received an envelope 11/11/23 and the envelope was empty.

I feel that an Ombudsman will know the avenues to inquire about our money and they would receive a timely response.

I am asking for a favorable vote in support of the Correctional Ombudsman Bill.

Respectfully
Elva Reid