



## Homewood Friends Meeting

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of  
Friends, Homewood  
3107 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218  
410-235-4438

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March 28, 2024

Dear Delegate Clippinger, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

**Homewood Friends Meeting (Baltimore Quakers) strongly supports HB 0297 – Correctional Ombudsman with the changes approved in the Senate as SB 0134, as recommended by Attorney General Anthony Brown.**

The creation of a correctional ombudsman office will shine the light of day upon the many problems in the Maryland correctional system. Maryland prisons are dangerous and unhealthy, but prison administrators' claims and reports of what goes on inside are not always reliable. Currently if incarcerated persons or their families/loved ones have concerns about conditions that range from poor medical care, lack of heat or too much of it, rodents, lack of services, issues with solitary confinement, etc. the concerns are directed to the warden. There is no independent oversight.

The Correctional Ombudsman will create a system in which an independent office receives complaints, investigates, and attempts to resolve them. The beauty of this proposed legislation is that it provides one solution to many problems. States that have implemented a correctional ombudsman have observed a decline in reported problems over time, as problems are identified and resolved.

**Please vote in support of HB0297 with proposed amendments.**

***Sarah Bur***

Sarah Bur, Clerk