

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and esteemed members of the Judiciary:

I urge you to give a favorable report to HB 0297 Independent Ombudsman.

To insure that prisoner grievances are fairly addressed and that certain deplorable conditions in the prisons are redressed, Maryland needs a completely independent mechanism of oversight of the correctional system.

The Correctional Ombudsman would be an independent, impartial public office – not part of DPSCS – that serves the State of Maryland by promoting positive change in corrections.

I urge you to support this bipartisan bill, HB0297/SB0134, to create the office of the Correctional Ombudsman and establish a Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gardner

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