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March 6, 2024

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Rhea L. Harris
Deputy Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 37 – Reentry Services for Women – Commission and Pilot
Program – Establishment - **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on **House Bill 37**.

House Bill 37 establishes the Commission on Reentry Services for Women overseen by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to create a comprehensive reentry plan for formerly incarcerated women; and establishes the Reentry Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Women to connect formerly incarcerated women to supportive services.

The Office of the Attorney General applauds the sponsor in developing reentry services dedicated to women only. The incarcerated women have different needs from the male counterparts. These women usually have children that they need to reconnect to and provide for, therefore, they need parenting classes and employment training. The Commission provide for in House Bill 37 will be able to focus on the incarcerated women and identify gender gaps in reentry services. The Commission is required to provide a Pilot Program plan for these women which will be tailored to their needs.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on **House Bill 37**.

cc: Vice Chair Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee Members