



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE  
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal  
Public Policy  
Network

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 37  
FAVORABLE**

**Reentry Services for Women—Commission and Pilot Program Establishment**

**TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair, Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Co-Chair, and members of the Judiciary Committee;**

**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Public Policy Network, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland**

**DATE: March 7, 2024:**

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland have embraced the concept of reparations, a concept not limited to financial considerations but to a leveling of the playing field across a broad spectrum of issues, including achieving equity in quality-of-life issues. For our justice system to succeed in achieving its goal of increased public safety, it must take steps to ensure that formerly incarcerated women become successful and contributing members of their community. Programs and services should be tailored to the unique needs and risk factors of an individual, to the extent possible. Services such as education, job training, access to transportation, mental health counseling are but some of the essential parts of a successful reentry programs.

A viable reentry program can be one of the most effective weapons we have to not only combat crime but to turn criminals into law-abiding citizens, competent and skilled workers and responsible parents.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report on HB 37.

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