



**Testimony Supporting House Bill 37  
Dr. Stephanie McGencey, President & Founder  
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The Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN), a national non-profit based in Maryland, whose goal is to create policy environments responsive to the needs of women of color, urges the House Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 37 to establish a Commission and Pilot Program to address the critical issue of services for formerly incarcerated women returning to our communities.

The Commission will play a pivotal role in creating a comprehensive 5-year reentry plan specifically tailored to the needs of formerly incarcerated women. Its diverse members, including reentry professionals who provide direct services and, most importantly, women previously incarcerated, ensure that the Commission's recommendations are rooted in real experiences and actionable solutions.

Furthermore, the Pilot Program will connect them to essential supportive services in their communities and ensure access to vital resources such as healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities. By engaging local reentry navigators, the program will offer personalized support to address individual barriers and facilitate a successful transition back into society.

House Bill 37 offers immediate assistance to women in their communities, and the comprehensive 5-year reentry plan developed by the Commission will pave the way for long-term solutions, addressing service gaps and implementing strategies to support formerly incarcerated women for years to come.

By establishing the Commission and Pilot Program outlined in this bill, we can ensure that state and local agencies make a 'warm handoff' from incarceration to the community where every woman has the opportunity for a safe, healthy, and productive return home.

**The Women's Equity Center and Action Network urges the  
Judiciary Committee to  
report favorably on House Bill 37**

**Educating, Engaging, and Activating Women of Color for Social Change**

Stephanie McGencey, MPH, Ph.D., President & Founder  
4500 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200#1191, Lanham, MD 20706 | [www.womensequity.org](http://www.womensequity.org) | 301-979-7966