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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee

On behalf of the Maryland Women's Caucus, we are pleased to express our strong support for **SB632: Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals (The Monica Cooper Prerelease Act)**. This critical legislation ensures that incarcerated women in Maryland have access to comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services that prepare them for successful reintegration into society.

Women face unique challenges both during and after incarceration, including higher rates of trauma, mental health issues, and caregiving responsibilities. However, Maryland lacks a dedicated prerelease facility designed to address the specific needs of female incarcerated individuals. Without access to tailored services such as job training, educational programs, housing assistance, and mental health support, many women reenter society unprepared, increasing the risk of recidivism and economic hardship.

**SB632** takes a necessary step toward correcting this disparity by requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Correction to ensure that female incarcerated individuals receive comprehensive prerelease services. By implementing these services by **July 1, 2026**, Maryland will be investing in rehabilitation rather than recidivism, reducing barriers that disproportionately impact women as they transition back into their communities.

Many of these women are mothers, and ensuring they have the tools to successfully reenter society strengthens families and disrupts cycles of incarceration. This bill promotes a more equitable justice system—one that recognizes the need for gender-responsive programming and prioritizes rehabilitation over punishment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the **Judicial Proceedings Committee** to issue a **favorable report** for **SB632**. Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to creating a more just and equitable Maryland.