

Date of Hearing: March 4,, 2025

Jo Shifrin
Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB 1157 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services - Assessment of State Correctional System

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1157, Correctional Services - Assessment of State Correctional System.

I moved to Bethesda 10 years ago to be near my grandchildren. My support for this legislation comes from my grounding in Jewish values. Among these values are *Tikkun Olam*, an obligation to make the world a more fair and equitable place for people to live.

I believe that the way we incarcerate people leads to higher costs for the state. I also believe that the way incarcerated people are treated does not result in them being able to re-enter society as productive, law-abiding members of the community. There are best practices in other states and in other countries that we could learn from and replicate here in Maryland. And I believe that the best way to achieve that is to do an assessment of the system, look at what is not working and change it.

I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on HB 1157.