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To Judiciary Committee Chair Sandy J. Bartlett, and Vice Chair Debra Davis- as well as committee members Lauren Arian, Elizabeth Embry, Gabriel Moreno, Christopher Bouchat, Nino Mangione, LaToya Nkongolo, Jon Cardin, Susan McComas, Scott Phillips, Frank Conaway, David Moon, Gary Simmons, Karen Simpson, Nicole Williams, Sean Stinnett, Jamila Woods, Kym Taylor, and William Valentine

I'm writing to support bill SB187: Reentry Services for Marylanders Incarcerated in Women's Prisons to advocate for incarcerated women's access to life changing resources that support their safety and reintegration to community.

Did you know that Maryland's prison system offers zero pre-release units with access to reentry services, like job assistance/training and medical services, for people incarcerated in women's prisons? Meanwhile they offer 9 reentry pre-release units for men's prisons -- which, not to assume they are adequate, but the sexist contrast is concerning. If Maryland wants to reduce its recidivism rate, it needs to provide people re-entering society from the cruel isolation of prison with some basic opportunities to access income and community upon release. Pre-release reentry services are essential for the lawful survival of people who've had years of their lives taken from them, and that includes women and people incarcerated in women's prisons.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill to take steps collectively towards supporting women's access to the same resources that men already have in Maryland.