



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467

February 27, 2026

Marian House strongly supports HB 467: Correctional Services – Maryland Parole Commission – Improvements in Transparency and Equity, HB 467 will expand transparency within the Maryland Parole Commission and remove the ability for the Parole Commission to permanently deny parole. This expansion is accomplished through changes in the Maryland Parole Commission’s annual report to include the number of cases the commission approves and denies parole, the reason individuals have been denied parole, the number of incarcerated individuals who are parole eligible but have not been granted parole, and the number and purpose of each hearing. This bill will also require the commission to provide incarcerated individuals proper time and notice of their hearing dates, create a system for timely parole hearings, and provide the incarcerated individuals with punctual parole decisions as well as the reasoning for each decision.

Marian House is a holistic community that provides women and their children with housing and comprehensive, wrap-around support services. Marian House provides a safe, sober, and loving environment that challenges women to respect and love themselves, confront emotional and socioeconomic barriers, and transition to stable, independent lives.

Specifying the content of the annual report to include the total number of paroles granted, parole denials, and reasoning for the parole decisions will increase transparency in the legal process, increasing both public and affected individuals’ knowledge of the system and operations and improving the community’s sense of trust and safety. The increased accountability and open communication that follows an in-depth annual report will strengthen public trust, solidify confidence and legitimacy of the state parole process, and provide a safety net that protects against potential abuses or bias¹.

Eliminating the Parole Commission’s ability to permanently deny parole and maintaining a standard of automatically granted parole hearings based on sentencing will maintain accountability within our state’s carceral system, protect the rights of individuals, and provide individuals and service providers with more accurate time frames required to properly prepare for release and reentry success. In maintaining predictable parole review timelines and creating a transparent process of decision making, service providers such as Marian House are better positioned to coordinate essential services such as housing, employment, and health supports. In addition, a system of clear and accurate parole scheduling will allow individuals to better engage in reentry planning and programming, which often require verified release dates or scheduled parole hearings to determine eligibility and participation².

Marian House is eager to support HB 467. For over forty-three years, Marian House has been serving women reentering the community from Maryland’s carceral system, many of whom spent years to decades incarcerated. HB 467 provides women in incarceration with timely parole hearings and allows them insight into their parole outcomes, creating a system that is moving towards transparency, equity, and reentry success.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Perry
Interim Chief Executive Officer / Chief Operating Officer
RP/np

¹ Arnold Ventures | Parole Board Members Weigh In on How to Address the... (2024). Arnold Ventures.
<https://www.arnoldventures.org/stories/parole-board-members-weigh-in-on-how-to-address-the-community-supervision-crisis>

² Prison Policy Initiative. (2025). *Parole in perspective: Part 1: How parole boards and hearings work*. Prisonpolicy.org.
https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/parole_part1.html