

February 3, 2026

Chairman Sandy Bartlett  
Vice Chair Debra Davis  
The Judiciary Committee

The PATH ACT - HB0084  
Hearing for 2-5-2026 at 1:00pm

Attached are 2 support letters for the PATH ACT:

1. NCNW - Greater Baltimore Section: WRITTEN TESTIMONY (only)
2. The LOHM - The Ladies of HOPE Ministries, Inc: WRITTEN TESTIMONY (only)

Thank you for accepting both testimony letters

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February 5, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Delegate Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Delegate Debra Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

**Re: Bill Number HB0084 - THE PATH ACT**

The Greater Baltimore Section of the National Council of Negro Women (GBS-NCNW) offers this statement to contribute perspective to ongoing public and policy conversations regarding justice, dignity, and protection for survivors, particularly African American women who experience harm at the intersection of racism and sexism:

For generations, African American women have faced systemic discrimination that marginalizes their experiences, distorts their narratives, and too often casts them as the problem rather than recognizing them as survivors. Their pain is questioned, their credibility challenged, and their needs minimized, resulting in disproportionate barriers to safety, care, and accountability. Approaches that center survivor protection, accountability, and trauma-informed responses acknowledge a long-standing reality within Black communities: survival is not a moral failure, and systems should be designed to protect the most vulnerable rather than silence them. When justice systems fail to account for coercion, abuse, and trauma, they risk compounding harm rather than advancing safety or fairness.

The mission of the National Council of Negro Women is to lead, advocate for, and empower women of African descent, their families, and communities. Grounded in social justice, civil rights, and equity, NCNW has historically supported policy frameworks and practices that seek to dismantle oppressive systems and affirm the humanity of Black women. For too many African American women, lived realities include being disbelieved, criminalized, or ignored when seeking help.

Policies and practices that prioritize protection over punishment, accountability over silence, and equity over indifference are essential to advancing safety, dignity, and trust in public systems. NCNW remains committed to elevating these principles and contributing to informed public dialogue on policies and practices that impact the lives, safety, and well-being of Black women and their communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Awanya Anglin-Brodie  
President  
Greater Baltimore Section  
National Council of Negro Women



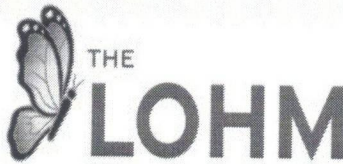
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## **THE LADIES OF HOPE MINISTRIES, INC.**

Ending the Poverty and Incarceration of Women and Girls Globally  
8 W 126th Street • New York, NY 10027  
(646) 820-0011 • [tksam@thelohm.org](mailto:tksam@thelohm.org)

**Date:** January 21st, 2026

**RE: Letter of Support for SB 0138 / HB 0084 – The PATH Act**

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I write in strong support of SB 0138 / HB 0084 – The PATH Act (Providing Alternatives Through Healing), legislation that reflects a thoughtful, humane, and evidence-based approach to justice for justice-involved individuals.

As the Founder and CEO of The Ladies of Hope Ministries (LOHM)—a national organization dedicated to ending the poverty and incarceration of women and girls—and as someone who has personally experienced incarceration and later received a full and unconditional Presidential Pardon, I understand firsthand the transformative power of second chances rooted in healing, accountability, and opportunity.

The PATH Act represents a critical step forward by promoting fair and proportional sentencing, prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment, and advancing public safety through community-based solutions. By expanding access to trauma-informed and therapeutic alternatives, this legislation acknowledges what decades of research and lived experience have shown: healing people strengthens families, stabilizes communities, and reduces recidivism.

Through our Hope House PGC program located in Prince George's County, we provide safe, stable housing for women actively fleeing domestic violence, made possible through our partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This initiative offers permanent supportive services and up to one year of rental assistance, ensuring survivors have the stability, safety, and wraparound support needed to heal, rebuild, and transition toward long-term independence.

At LOHM, we work daily with women and families navigating the long-term impacts of incarceration. We see how untreated trauma, mental health challenges, and lack of access to supportive services perpetuate cycles of harm. The PATH Act directly addresses these realities by offering pathways that foster restoration rather than continued punishment—benefiting not only justice-involved individuals, but their children, families, and the broader community.

I also wish to express deep appreciation to Senator Shaneka Henson and Delegate Stephanie Smith for their leadership and sponsorship of this legislation. Their commitment to survivor-centered, healing-focused policy reflects a bold and compassionate vision for justice that is both smart and just.

Supporting legislation like the PATH Act affirms that accountability and compassion are not mutually exclusive—and that true public safety is achieved when we invest in people's capacity to heal and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to policies that uplift communities, strengthen families, and create lasting change.

With respect and gratitude,

**Dr. Topeka K. Sam**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
The Ladies of Hope Ministries, Inc.