



Bill No: HB935
Title: Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing: March 3, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB935- Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals** is a priority on the [2026 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB935- Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals will require that DPSCS meet certain locational, acreage, bed-capacity and programming requirements in the construction and operation of the women's prerelease center required by the Gender-Responsive Prerelease Act of 2021 to ensure that the facility provides adequate space for programming, outdoor space, and bed capacity for all women in prerelease status now and into the future. The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to provide those services at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) prior to completion of the women's prerelease center.

There is no women's prerelease center that provides comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services for female incarcerated individuals. The Gender-Responsive Prerelease Act of 2021 required the construction and operation of such a facility by 2023, but the facility has not been designed and built. The current plans developed by the Department of General Services and DPSCS are unacceptable in a number of key respects:

- The selected site, 717 Forrest Street, Baltimore City, is located in a dangerous, high drug-trafficking area within the Pre-Trial and Detention Center Complex
- The area of the site is too small to accommodate the facility and green outdoor space needed for the women and their families
- The small bed capacity of the facility will not accommodate all the women eligible to be housed at the facility
- The women's critical therapeutic programming will be held at the to-be-built Baltimore Therapeutic Treatment Center, a co-ed maximum-security detention facility not geared to the needs of women who are returning from long incarceration

A separate pre-release housing unit for women is essential because women in custody have distinct safety, trauma, and reentry needs that are often unmet in mixed-gender settings. Many are survivors of domestic or sexual violence and require a secure, women-only environment to engage fully in trauma-informed programming and reentry planning. Women also face unique challenges related to family reunification,

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caregiving responsibilities, and higher rates of unmet physical and behavioral health needs. A dedicated unit allows for gender-responsive services focused on healing, parenting, health care continuity, employment readiness, and housing stability, improving reentry outcomes, reducing recidivism, and strengthening families and communities.

MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB935.

MLAW 2026 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2026 Legislative Agenda*:

AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
AAUW Garrett Branch
American Association of University Women Howard County Branch
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
Campaign for Eneshal Galloway at Large Candidacy
Carroll County Chapter NOW
Crabs On The Shore
Jack and Jill of America Western Maryland Chapter
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)
Maryland NOW
Montgomery County Business and Professional Women
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women
National Association of University Women, Prince George's County
NAUW
Postpartum Support International, Maryland
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
Self-Reflections: Social-Emotional, Behavioral and Advocacy Services, LLC
Stella's Girls, Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Heart Nest
The Rest Of A Life (TROAL)
Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, Patuxent River Chapter
Unrooted Culture
Women's Commission for Baltimore City
Women's Equity Center and Action Network
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis

**As of 2/2/2026*