

EZRA MACLEOD TOWNE

Testimony Favorable to SB0187: Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Reentry Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals

March 31, 2026

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Delegate Debra Davis, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ezra Towne, and my pronouns are they/them. I am writing to you today to ask you to vote favorably on SB0187.

SB0187 would correct an inequity in our judicial system for women by establishing a Women's Reentry Facility for female incarcerated individuals. At present, there is no reentry facility for female inmates while there are multiple such facilities available for men. This is unacceptable.

Reentry facilities can establish programs and services that prepare incarcerated individuals for a successful reentry into the community outside of prison. Maryland's male prerelease facilities offer life skills and job readiness training as well as individual reentry plans that help secure new personal documentation like birth certificates and social security cards, connections to housing opportunities and other forms of assistance such as food programs like SNAP, voter registration services, and Maryland legal aid information, and more.

Reentry facilities and programs are essential for all incarcerated individuals - preventing recidivism when inmates reenter a world they haven't lived in for years.

Why shouldn't incarcerated women be eligible for a similar program that is curtailed to their specific needs?

The answer isn't budgetary, it's institutionalized sexism. For these reasons, **I ask for a favorable vote on SB0187 - Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Reentry Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals**

Sincerely,
Mx. Ezra MacLeod Towne
Wheaton, D18