

Hearing March 3, 2026  
Mary Jo Kirschman  
Baltimore, MD 21214

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0592**  
**POSITION: (FAVORABLE)**

**Task Force to Study Forced Infant Separation From Incarcerated Individuals**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett and Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Mary Jo Kirschman, D43. (in Behalf of BeTheChangeBmore)

**I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 0592**

BeTheChangeBmore is a Baltimore area advocacy organization with a network of over 1300 Marylanders. Since 2016 we have been working to protect democracy and expand peoples' rights at the local, state and national levels.

We continue to strongly support HB 0592, creation of a "Task Force to Study Forced Infant Separation from Incarcerated Individuals".

Leaders in BTC have long-standing expertise in early childhood health and safety, working through local foundations to support young families. Through this work, we have learned that supporting the bonds between mothers and their babies demonstrably improves the social, emotional and learning outcomes for both the women and the futures of their children.

Additionally, this bonding helps mitigate the trauma and abuse experienced by many young women who find themselves in the carceral system.

This Task Force, for a very limited cost, will pull together the best research about how to reduce enforced infant separation and develop policy recommendations that will give the next generation a chance for success. Rather than continuing the cycle of misery and dysfunction, recommendations from this study will give MD legislators a chance to improve outcomes for both the women who will return to motherhood in their communities, and for the children who are our next great hope.

We sincerely hope that the Judiciary Committee will support HB 0592, Task Force to Study Forced Infant Separation. Thank you.

