

HB0935_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/03/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0935- POSITION: FAVORABLE

**Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female
Incarcerated Individuals**

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0935, **Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals**

Pre-release status is defined as “the lowest security level for inmates who present the least risk of violence or escape and have established an excellent record of acceptable behavior.” Individuals granted pre-release status may have access to the community for work release, special leave, compassionate leave, and family leave.

Currently, in the state of Maryland, men have NINE separate pre-release and minimum-security facilities while women have ZERO. At the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) in Jessup, Maryland, as many as 1 in 10 women have achieved pre-release status. However, as many as 30% of the women on pre-release status have not been assigned to a work opportunity.¹

This bill attempts to respond to this disparity between men’s and woman’s pre-release facilities by altering the required specifications for a certain prerelease facility for female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Department of General Services to direct the procurement processes for the construction of a certain prerelease facility for female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Commissioner of Correction to make gender-responsive services available to certain female incarcerated individuals; requiring the implementation of comprehensive prerelease services for certain individuals by September 1, 2026; etc.

This is a long overdue need in how we treat females transitioning from incarceration back to the community and society through services specific to them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0935.

¹ <https://www.out4justice.org/women-s-pre-release>