



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair  
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 03/03/2026  
RE: HB0935 - Correctional Services - Comprehensive  
Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated  
Individuals

### **The MLLC supports HB0935 - Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0935.

Currently, Maryland lacks a single dedicated prerelease facility for women, despite the existence of nine centers for men. In 2021, the MGA passed SB684, approving construction and operation of a prerelease center for women. The provision required operations to begin in 2023. To this day, construction has not started on the pre-release center. Pre-release centers are critical for the transition of offenders back into the community particularly for women in the carceral system who face distinct challenges related to their mental health, physical well-being, and are at-risk for intimate partner violence once released<sup>1</sup>.

While there are more men in the carceral system than women, women in the carceral system are a particularly vulnerable population and should have access to the same types of services offered to men. Specifically for the Latina community, data shows that Latinas are being incarcerated at 1.2 times the rate of White women<sup>2</sup>. Formerly incarcerated Latina women are at a significant disadvantage as they are usually released without the structured support necessary to transition back into society<sup>3</sup>. This bill addresses these inequities by providing the same prerelease services that are available to men in Maryland. This bill is critical to ensuring not only that the pre-release center is built, but that women in Maryland receive the services that they need to be successful upon reentry to society.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0935.

<sup>1</sup> [Council on Criminal Justice. Women's Justice. A Preliminary Assessment of Women in the Criminal Justice System. July 2024.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NIH. Offending Behavior, Drug Use, and Mental Health among Foreign-Born versus U.S. Born Latino Criminal Justice Clients.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Sentencing Project. Incarcerated Women and Girls. 4 Dec. 2025.](#)