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February 27, 2026

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House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor Office Building
101 Taylor Office Building
Annapolis, MD. 21401

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RE: HB 935 - Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services -
Female Incarcerated Individuals

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Position: SUPPORT

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Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

Representative to APA Council

Mary Fernandes, Ph.D.

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee to report FAVORABLY on HB 935.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Beatrice Gerry, Ph.D.

This bill will provide a much-needed transition back into the community for female offenders, providing comprehensive services prior to their release. This engagement in services prior to release from incarceration is a unique and revolutionary way to provide a smooth transition back into the community, thereby reducing recidivism.

Diversity

Mindy Milstein, Ph.D.

Reentry issues are one of the biggest barriers to success for recently released individuals. Historically, those barriers have ranged from issues with transportation, housing, employment, childcare, addiction, and mental health. The stress placed on reentrants to find and engage in these services while navigating their transition out of the structured environment of prison is overwhelming and often sets them up for failure. The strategy in this bill is an innovative way to remove those obstacles and set female reentrants on a path to success and healing.

Early Career Psychologist

Danielle Wexler, Ph.D.

Educational Affairs

Shalena Wade, Ph.D.

Ethics

LaShaun Williams, Psy.D.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 935. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D. at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Legislative

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.

Respectfully submitted,

Membership

Dana O'Brien, Ph.D.

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
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cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

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