



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0608**  
**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – PRERELEASE FOR WOMEN – REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Crutchfield

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0608 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

We cannot say how much we appreciate that this bill is seeking to redress a LONG OVERDUE inequity in the ability of women to re-enter society on the same footing as men, but that it is written in such a simple, straightforward manner.

The fact that there is not a prerelease unit and services available to women, who have children and families to put back together, is an unbelievable injustice to so many people across the state. Not just the women, who have to struggle even harder than men to re-integrate themselves in society, but for their children and their families. This is something that must be corrected. We are a modern society, and in a modern society, women and men are equal. The fact that we are continuing to let this inequity remain speaks very poorly of us. Let us make this change and move forward.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.