



Maryland
Justice
Project

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0608

Correctional Services–Prerelease Unit for Women– Requirement to Operate

To: Chairman Luke Clippenger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Giselle Hicks Maryland Justice Project, Volunteer

Date: 2/12/2020

My name is Giselle Hicks. I am a former inmate at The Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup, Md. I received a 15yr. sentence for which I served 10 years day for day. Upon my release My status was decreased to "Minimum" Status. However, I still had to serve the full 10yrs at MCI-W without ANY type of Pre-release and/or rehabilitation to prepare me for the outside world. I was released from MCI-W on April 6, 2002 But that's all it was...A Release... I wasn't given any opportunities to be placed into a Pre-release Facility because there was NONE. Prior to my incarceration, I had gone through a very traumatic childhood full of every type of abuse & abandonment Issues that were never resolved. I was in desperate need of Resources to help Me with Coping Mechanisms that would assist me to deal with Life's challenges. Therefore, abuse & abandonment was all that I knew. As a result, I was basically thrown out into a Jungle world; feeling the same way I felt when I first arrived at MCI-W (Unsafe, Scared, Used Abused, Hopeless, Confused, Abandoned, Clueless & very Lost...) All females should be given an opportunity to receive resources such as Pre-release and /or Halfway houses to assist any female in need of Guidance & rehabilitation. This will provide the females with the necessary tools needed to deal with "Everything" outside of those horrific prison gates. However, I was one of the VERY FEW who was blessed with Family that was there for me & my 2 kids at the time (for which I gave birth to my son while I was incarcerated). Many females aren't as fortunate as I was to have support from their family. This will cause an effect on a person to "Unfortunately" repeat a series of Insanely unacceptable behavior due to the lack of family support & supportive

services from our communities. I Strongly Support this Bill to have Pre-Release Facilities for Females...

I Thank You all involved for your time, patience & your Sincere Consideration in this Urgent matter To Approve a Pre-Release Housing Unit for Woman.

Sincerely Yours,

Giselle Hicks (MJP Volunteer)