



**REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE INSIDE**

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c/o NPCMF

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HB 608– Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women

SUPPORT

Chairman Clippinger
Vice Chair Atterbeary
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Reproductive Justice Inside (RJI) and our coalition members and partners stand in support of HB 608. RJI is Maryland’s only statewide coalition working to address the needs of systems-involved individuals and their access to quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare and the right to parent with dignity.

Women are the fastest growing segment of our prison population -the drivers of their incarceration are different than men’s – the way women do their time is different from men – and the way and needs for their reentry are unique from those of men.

Currently there are no prerelease programs or opportunities for women. Women deserve the same opportunities as those afforded to men – this is not happening here in Maryland. Currently, if a woman has a pre-release or minimum-security status, she remains incarcerated in a maximum-security facility. She has no opportunity to transition back into her community and to be a part of her reentry planning team. There currently is no coordinated care or transition planning afforded to her. She has no voice in her return to her family or community – she has no opportunity to seek gainful employment in a job that she will keep once she is released from incarceration. Her opportunities for successful reentry are in essence thwarted by the very system that is supposed to work with her and assist her.

We believe this to be a direct violation of Title IX law. The lack of a standalone prerelease facility for women is a reminder to women that they and their needs are less than those of men and only serves to undermine her ability to rebuild her life and move beyond incarceration.

Simply put, HB 608 is good legislation and the Reproductive Justice Inside Coalition, its members and allies urge your support and favorable report on HB 608.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven
Reproductive Justice Inside
Coalition Coordinator