

SUPPORT HB 1188 - Correctional Ombudsman Bill

To whom it may concern:

During the past year I have had the privilege of corresponding with several MARYLAND prisoners.

I have been deeply grieved to learn

1. about rehabilitative services stopped and not available for years now.
2. about extremely inadequate responses to medical needs and gender identity issues of prisoners
3. about lack of protection to Covid, both with early release from prison and with necessary changes within prisons.

MARYLAND can and needs to do far better and more toward humane and rehabilitative treatment of all those in correctional institutions.

I have lived and worked in Maryland since 1974.

I love our state. And,

In the last 7 years my eyes have been unveiled to how we Marylanders treat prisoners, and I am profoundly ashamed.

The Ombudsman Program will offer needed accountability and transparency for years-overdue loving and just treatment of our fellow human beings.

Respectfully yours,
Ellen Cronin, M.D.