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BILL NO: House Bill 412  
TITLE: State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy – Plea Agreements and Annual Report (The Judicial Transparency Act of 2022)  
COMMITTEE: Judiciary  
HEARING DATE: February 8, 2022  
POSITION: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

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House Bill 412 would require certain reporting about sentencing in criminal law cases in the context of the sentencing guidelines. The Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) writes today in support of this bill only to ask that if it is the will of the body to pass this law, that the bill be amended to include data on the gender of the defendant being sentenced.

Pages 4 and 5 list data that shall be collected and reported. This data should include the gender of the defendant so that we know if there is disparity when sentencing women versus sentencing men. This is vitally important information to make sure sentences are not being meted out unfairly based on gender.

Therefore, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges a favorable report on House Bill 412, with this amendment.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women.*