OUT FOR JUSTICE

Why Support Our Bills?

Without a law, nobody will not be held accountable to meeting women's needs

1) **BILL #1**: Requirement to operate a pre-release center for women	**Maryland has historically neglected incarcerated women to save money** • Lawmakers relocated pre-release services to MCI-W, leaving women with very little job, education, housing, healthcare, mental health, and family-reunification support [1,2] • Women now have ZERO, stand-alone pre-release facilities while men have several[3] **Maryland's women report they are very unprepared for reentry** • Per their many reports (see quotes page) [1] **Neglecting returning women will fuel other costly problems** • Many children are in foster care because their moms are incarcerated and lack of preparation for reentry [4,5] • We are creating further trauma for mothers and children by making family contact difficult during pre-release and releasing women without adequate re-entry support • Increasing the likelihood that women and their children will live in poverty • Perpetuating reliance on social services post-release due to inadequate preparation for release • Elevated recidivism risk without adequate reentry planning and support services
2) **BILL #2**: Defining "pre-release facility for women" as stand-alone & community-located	**Women deserve freedoms that match the pre-release status they have earned** • Prison-like facilities limit the freedoms that are promised to women who have earned "pre-release" status (ex: restrictive and invasive escort and transportation protocols) [6] • They need to feel safe and empowered to focus on their reentry plan (they don't at MCI-W and they won't in a coed facility with men due to past trauma) **Remotely located pre-release facilities will not adequately prepare women for release** • Community-located facilities have lower recidivism rates [7, 8, 9] • Reportedly few job opportunities in Jessup, MD [1] • Reportedly unable to connect to their families while at a prison facility like MCI-W [1] • Having family visits has been linked to reduced recidivism [10] **Locating the women's pre-release facility in the highest return zip code would maximize benefits for the most women (instead of preventing benefits for ALL by locating remotely)**
3) **BILL #3**: Requires comprehensive, gender responsive and trauma-informed pre-release services for women	**Women especially need…** • Tailored risk assessments • Access to opportunities to improve their financial wellbeing • The ability to maintain important relationships with their children, families, and other social supports • Access to trauma-informed mental health and addictions services • Above all, they need to feel safe and empowered due to their potential trauma histories **This list is the same list has been communicated by…** • Women at MCI-W, advocates, mental health professionals, criminology & psychology researchers, the Maryland and the National Institute of Corrections[1,11,12,13]

1 Letters to Out for Justice from women at MCI-W

2 Maryland DPSCS. (2017) *Report on Services for Female Offenders.* Retrieved from http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2017/2017_122-123.pdf

3 Maryland DOC. (2018). *FY 2018 Annual Report*. Retrieved from https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicinfo/publications/pdfs/DOC2018AnnualRpt.pdf

4 Child Trends. (2015). *Foster Care: Federal Fiscal Year 2015.*Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Maryland-Foster-Care-Factsheet_2015.pdf

5 Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2010). *Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children.* Retrieved from https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf

6 Maryland Division of Corrections. (2007). *Inmate Handbook.* Retrieved from https://www.law.umich.edu/special/policyclearinghouse/Documents/Maryland%20-%20Inmate%20Handbook%202007.pdf

7 Maryland DPSCS. (2018). *Sentenced Average Length of Stay and Recidivism.* Retrieved from http://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicinfo/publications/pdfs/research/SentencedAverageLengthofStayandRecidivism.pdf

8 Montgomery County Department of Corrections. (2018). *Release and Reentry Services.* Retrieved from https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COR/PRRS/index.html

9 Toppin, S. (2015). Program evaluation: Georgia's Transitional Center Program. *Justice Policy Journal, 12*(2), 1-18.

10 Bales, W. D., Mears, D. P. (2008). Inmate social ties and the transition to society. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 45*(3), 287-321.

11 Holtfreter, K., & Wattanaporn, K. A. (2014). The Transition from Prison to Community Initiative: An Examination of Gender Responsiveness for Female Offender Reentry. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 41(1), 41–57. https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854813504406

12 Covington, S. S., & Bloom, B. E. (2007). Gender responsive treatment and services in correctional settings. Women & Therapy, 29(3-4), 9-33.

13 National Institute of Corrections. (2003). *Gender-Responsive Strategies: Research, Practice, and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders.* Retrieved from https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/018017.pdf