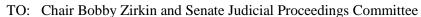
## **SUPPORT SB 419- Women's Prerelease**

## MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



FROM: Phil Caroom, MAJR Executive Committee

DATE: February 21, 2019

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Former Governor

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Philip Caroom Retired Judge

Charles Chappell Former inmate; former Manager for Correctional Enterprises at JCI

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Out for Justice
JCI Prison Scholars Program
Extra-Legalese Group, Inc.

Lea Green

Maryland C.U.R.E.

Jerry Mclaurin
People for Change Coalition

Bob Rhudy Past Director of Mediation, Court of Special Appeals

Jim Rose Patapsco Friends

Glennor Shirley Retired Director of DPSCS Library Services Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) supports SB419 to restore Women's Prerelease operations - preferably in the City of Baltimore.

The prior women's prerelease program, discontinued in FY17 offered the majority of women inmates who come from Baltimore various advantages including:

- 1) The opportunity to obtain meaningful employment which they could continue upon release;
- 2) The opportunity to reach such employment via public transportation;
- 3) The opportunity to have visits and to restore their relationship with family members from whom they may have become estranged during years of incarceration away from their home communities; and
- 4) The opportunity to establish better connections with local treatment providers as needed to succeed in reentry, post-release.

Studies show that more effective pre-release programs may reduce the rate of recidivism and, thus, benefit the public by reducing costs of further incarceration and crime. See, e.g., How Prerelease Can Make a Difference - <a href="https://www.socialsolutions.com/blog/pre-release-center-makes-difference/">https://www.socialsolutions.com/blog/pre-release-center-makes-difference/</a>

DOC inmates, who are male, have the opportunity to be assigned to six different prerelease progams in various parts of the State - ideally, closer to their home communities. Budget constraints should not operate unfairly to penalize women.

For all these reasons, MAJ R strongly urges adoption of SB 419.

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NOTE: Phil Caroom offer this testimony on behalf of the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform executive committee and not on behalf of the Maryland Judiciary.