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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 5, 2020

SENATE BILL 591- PETITION TO MODIFY OR REDUCE SENTENCE- FAVORABLE

Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,  
I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 591. I am a retired epidemiologist from the National Institutes of Health. For the past two years I have been an active member of a group advocating for the release of Mr. Leonard Cirincione, 'Lenny', a 62-year-old Baltimore native, who is an inmate at MD state prison at Jessop. Lenny is emblematic of the persons who would be helped by the Second Look Act.

As my contribution to this advocacy group, I deal with the data generated by Lenny's case. I have studied every single medical record generated by this case, and have read the entire 6 days of transcripts from the trial and sentencing. What I want to emphasize is that even as someone with no legal training, just someone who can read, can think, can evaluate, it is glaringly obvious that things went horribly wrong at this trial.

In the medical world, things sometimes also go horribly wrong. Officer Miller, the traffic officer hit by Lenny's car that summer night did not die as a direct result of his injuries. He died 40 days later of a hospital-acquired infection. In the 1980s, such infections were increasingly recognized as a significant cause of hospital mortality, and so we established formal programs to help hospitals prevent them. This was the remedy offered by the medical community when things went horribly wrong in our world.

Our State needs more remedies available when our legal system goes horribly wrong, when an intoxicated driver who hits a pedestrian is wrongly convicted for first-degree murder. That is what happened to Lenny Cirincione. This bill, SB 591, creates the possibility for a correction.

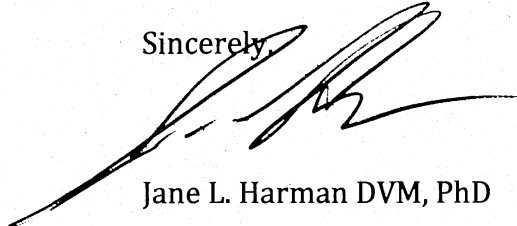
Every person we speak with about Lenny's case, every Maryland citizen who learns about his case is appalled that this man should have spent 34 years – 34 years and counting – in our prisons, our Maryland prisons.

As Maryland citizens, self-governing citizens, we do not want our collective authority used in this way, wasted in this way. We do not want our collective purse dispensed in this way. We have allowed over \$1 million to have been spent to keep this single person in prison all these years. Each year of his imprisonment would pay for two students to attend the University of Maryland – tuition, fees, and room and board.

Our group stands in strong support of this bill before you, SB 591, by which our collective authority to punish crime can correct itself when our system sometimes goes awry. There are many other inmates like our friend Lenny, who have long outgrown their drug addictions, their youthful recklessness or callousness, and have become mature and gentle and wise. These inmates are needed by their neighborhoods and their families. This bill before you creates the possibility—not a guarantee, just a possibility, but a much-needed possibility—for corrective reconsideration of their sentences.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Harman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jane L. Harman DVM, PhD