

**Testimony *in Support* of Senate Bill 1038
Juveniles Convicted as Adults – Sentencing – Limitations and Reduction
(Juvenile Restoration Act)**

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jaime Garcia

Date: March 12, 2020

Re: Previously Submitted Testimony in Support of the Juvenile Restoration Act, cross-filed as House Bill 1437

March 5,2020

Dear Chairman Clippinger ,Vice Chair Atterbeary,and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jaime Garcia and I strongly support HB 1437-The juvenile Restoration Act.

I am Tommy Bonilla's brother and I support HB 1437 because I believe that juveniles at the time that they commit an offense, are still children and do not think about the consequences that come with it. I strongly believe that all juveniles deserve a second chance in life because of their immaturity. Sentencing a juvenile to life imprisonment is unfair. I believe when an individual has demonstrated maturity, has been fully rehabilitated, and fitted to re-enter society it is sufficient to justify a sentence reduction. Tommy at a young age has dedicated his life to work and dropped out of school in order to work full time. He has always demonstrated his hard work. For 31 years and counting, my mother and I have had to endure this pain and hardship without him. He has missed out on quality time with his family and we feel like we have lost a son and a brother who deserves a second chance in life. Tommy has been a role model to his inmates and to our new generation of the family including my own children. He has shared his experiences in life from the time he was incarcerated until today. He has repeatedly advised them to stay in school, stay out of trouble, and become productive citizens. Tommy has endured a very long time in prison where he sees people in and out of jail, especially those when they are being released and remind them that he does not want to ever see them come back to prison. In my opinion, my brother has been fully rehabilitated and in no way he will be a threat to society. I also believe that he is mature enough to become a model citizen in society. Tommy was able to obtain his GED and has always worked his entire time in prison. He has a long record of great behavior. This bill would not only help Tommy, but others. I am proud to say that since Tommy's influence on inmates and family members has brought nothing but a positive outcome. Whenever Tommy is given the chance of freedom, he will be a productive citizen to society.

I urge you to give HB 1437 a favorable vote.

Thank You.

Sincerely, Jaime Garcia