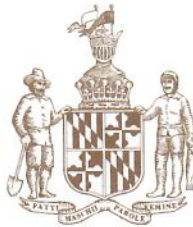


ELIZABETH "SUSIE" PROCTOR
Legislative District 27A
Prince George's and Charles Counties

Appropriations Committee



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 423
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3083 · 301-858-3083
800-492-7122 Ext. 3083
Fax 410-841-3459 · 301-858-3459
Susie.Proctor@house.state.md.us

District Office
14202 Cold Harbour Drive
Accokeek, Maryland 20607-3701
301-203-0310
Fax 301-203-0225

March 3rd, 2020

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

I am pleased to present House Bill 300. The bill removes the Governor from the parole process for persons sentenced to life with the possibility of parole. Due to a drafting error, the bill also requires that these persons serve 30 years before becoming eligible for parole. You should have an amendment before you to remove that 30-year requirement. So, as amended, the bill removes the Governor from the parole process for persons sentenced to life with the possibility of parole.

Currently, there are about 2,100 people serving parole-eligible life sentences in Maryland. These men and women were sentenced with the understanding that if they proved themselves genuinely rehabilitated they would be paroled. But, in fact, they are now more likely to die in prison, often after serving many more decades than anyone expected. A system that decides Marylanders' freedom based on the political whims of a Governor is not a functional parole system.

Marylanders who turn their lives around should have the right to earn parole. It takes many years and rigorous vetting to earn a recommendation of release from the Maryland Parole Commission.

Maryland is one of only three states in the country to give sole authority to release anyone serving a life with parole sentence to the Governor. This wrongly politicizes whether people can earn their freedom.

Thank you for considering this legislation. I hope you will give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Proctor".

Delegate Susie Proctor
District 27A