

**TESTIMONY ON SB 0771
MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT**

**Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
March 15, 2023**

SUPPORT

Submitted by: Dorain Grogan

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I, Dorain Grogan, **am testifying in support of SB 0771, the Maryland Second Look Act.** I am submitting this testimony as an impacted family member, as my son is incarcerated. Please know, I would be there to testify in person, if not for my disability.

Passage of the Maryland Second Look Act would create a meaningful opportunity for sentence modification for incarcerated people after having served 20 years of their sentence. I firmly believe that those individuals who are able to demonstrate their growth and rehabilitation, such that they are no longer a threat to public safety, should have the opportunity for release.

My son has been incarcerated for over 15 years, during which time I have seen tremendous growth in him, mentally and physically. His judgement has greatly improved since he was a teenager, when he was incarcerated. He has taken on the challenge to improve himself in many ways over the years. He is currently taking classes at Georgetown to get his degree. He was one of the first 25 students accepted to the program from hundreds of applications across the state. He has also been mentoring some of the younger men in prison to help them stay on the right path. He is trying very hard to help other people on the correct path. Even correctional officers praise him and trust him. I know when he comes home, he will continue on that same path. In the past year, I have lost my sight, and having him home to support me around the house and to travel would be an amazing gift.

This bill is an important tool in making meaningful opportunities for release happen, as currently, incarcerated people in MD can only petition the Court for modification within 90 days of sentencing, severely limiting any potential sentence modifications¹.

In 2021, the General Assembly made a positive step by passing the Juvenile Restoration Act [SB0494/HB0409](#) which allowed individuals who were minors sentenced as adults the ability to petition the Court for sentence modification after 20 years. The Maryland Second Look Act would extend this ability both to youth sentenced after the JRA went into effect and other incarcerated people in Maryland who committed a crime aged 18 and up. For other parents who have watched their teenage children be incarcerated, this would mean so much.

I know when my son is given the opportunity to come home, he will stay home and be very successful. He has a loving support system around him with myself and his sisters. He has demonstrated over the past 15 years of his incarceration, his dedication to growth and success. Please give him and so many others the chance to reenter and succeed in their communities.

For these reasons, I encourage you to vote **favorably** on the **Maryland Second Look Act SB0771**.

Thank you.

¹ Maryland Rule 4-345