

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0098
Correctional Services – Geriatric and Medical Parole

TO: Hon. William C. Smith, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Linda D. Green MD

DATE: February 7, 2023

Linda D. Green MD, Life After Release

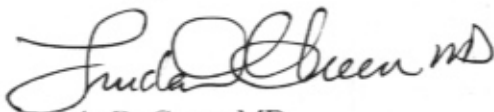
I am writing to support Senate Bill 0098 because I have had and currently have been working with inmates who are suffering or have died in prison due to medical conditions which should certainly have led to their release from jail to receive comfort care with their families at home. I am happy to provide some personal details of these cases but for the purpose of this testimony I will just summarise the situations.

As a physician I have reviewed the medical records of three cases that I want to bring to your attention:

1. Older woman (age 58) with multiple recurrences and treatments for ovarian cancer who was clearly resistant to treatment after at least three cycles of chemotherapy and surgical interventions. She was never given a compassionate release to her family that was willing to take her home. She died after a few weeks in a hospital still under the criminal justice system. She had been at the Women's Correctional Institution in Jessup.
2. A 61 year old man currently at North Branch receiving palliative chemotherapy for stomach and liver cancer suffering with abdominal pain and difficulty eating.
3. A 41 year old man currently in Hagerstown with severe lung and cardiac conditions from Churg-Strauss syndrome diagnosed at Johns Hopkins. He was recently discharged from a local hospital with a vest that can function as a temporary defibrillator.

The families and the volunteers at Life After Release are concerned about these and other such cases. The organization *APP-HRC is also following these last two cases. We hope that such legislation will open the door to more timely responses so that severely ill inmates will not die in prison and will be able to receive compassionate care which is impossible for the prison system to provide.

Sincerely,



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*Aging People in Prison – Human Rights Campaign