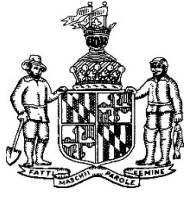


# **Feinstein Letter of Support SB0004--Victim Notific**

Uploaded by: Debbie Feinstein

Position: FAV



STATE'S ATTORNEY  
JOHN J. MCCARTHY

## State's Attorney for Montgomery County

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DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS  
PETER A. FEENEY  
RYAN S. WECHSLER

February 1, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Smith and Judiciary Proceedings Committee Members:

I write in support of SB0004—Criminal Law—Criminal Procedure—Victims' Rights—Notification of Release from Confinement. I am the Chief of the Special Victims Division for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office. My division is responsible for prosecuting cases involving child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Among other multidisciplinary teams, I am a member and former Chair of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and the current Chair of the Montgomery County Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force. I am also a member of the Governor's Family Violence Council.

Currently, Section 11-508 of the Criminal Procedure Article requires a commitment unit, i.e., a unit that a court orders to retain custody of a defendant and to receive a notification request forms, to provide certain notifications to witnesses to and victims of crime. The current statutory structure, however, does not require a commitment unit to provide the victim or witness contact information for the local victim-witness coordinator in the State's Attorney's Office where the crime was committed.

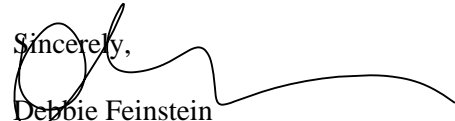
Senate Bill 4 adds a provision to the victim notification law that requires the commitment unit to make a specific notification to the victim or witness: "When a sentenced defendant or child respondent is being released from confinement, the commitment unit shall include in the notification . . . the name and telephone number of the lead victim services employee of the State's Attorney's Office of the county in which the defendant or child respondent was prosecuted."

In Maryland, sentenced individuals receive good time and diminution credits and a numerical sentence is often not the actual time served in confinement. While prosecutors strive to explain this process to victims and witnesses at the time of the sentencing, many victims and witnesses are surprised to learn that the defendant has been released from confinement far short of the numerical number they heard at the time of sentencing. In addition, the actual release date constantly changes during the course of the sentence.

Senate Bill 4 gives victims and witnesses a specific contact person to reach out to with questions following the defendant's release from confinement. This extra layer of communication will provide victims and witnesses with needed support.

I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0004.

Sincerely,

  
Debbie Feinstein  
Chief, Special Victims Division  
Senior Assistant State's Attorney

# **CVR - victim witness information upon inmate relea**

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
[www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 4**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 1, 2024

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 4.

**Senate Bill 4 – Support for Victims & Survivors When Inmate is Released**

This bill would require that a victim of a crime receive contact information for the lead victim witness coordinator at the State's Attorney's Office where the crime was committed when an inmate is released. MCASA fully supports providing victims and survivors with information and support throughout the criminal justice process, including when assailants are released from prison. We respectfully defer to the State's Attorneys' Association regarding whether this is the appropriate person.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judicial Proceedings Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 4**

**SB0004-BT-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0004**

February 1, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 4 – Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release from Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 4.

SB 4 provides victims and witnesses with notification when a defendant or child respondent is released from confinement, escaped, recaptured, or transferred to a different confinement unit. The notification is to include the name and contact information for the Victim Services employee from the prosecuting State's Attorney Office. This bill also protects victims and witnesses from disclosure of their personal information, including telephone number and home address, to defendants.

Victims have a right to be made aware of changes to the status of an offender that can impact them in any way. Prior cases of revictimization by an offender who sought out their victim upon release show that failing to notify victims of a defendant's release could put the victim's safety at risk. This includes the late Mary Byron whose untimely passing led to the creation of the Victim Notification and Information System (VINE)<sup>i</sup>.

Victims and witnesses of crime, harmed by abuse, attacks, and/or violence, have a right to be informed about changes to an offender's status. This commonsense measure, which also protects the privacy of survivors, considers that victim and witness safety is prioritized.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 4.

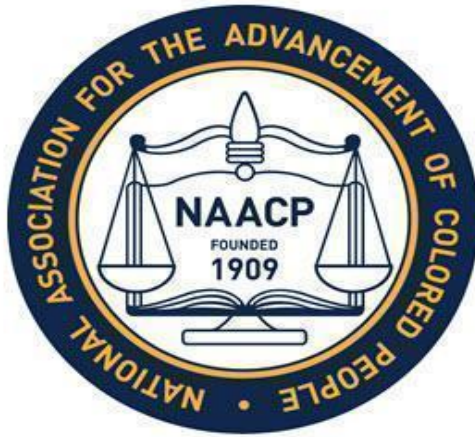
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<sup>i</sup> <https://corrections.ky.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Vine-History.aspx>

# **SB 0004 Favorable vote.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



# Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

Jan 31, 2024  
Immediate Release

Contact: Ryan Coleman, President  
[randallstownnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:randallstownnaacp@gmail.com)

## **Randallstown NAACP supports SB 0004-Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)**

Maryland has too many off ramps in which defendants can reduce their sentence. Victims have no chance to figure out how much time offenders really serve.

SB 0004 ensures the state's attorney is the lead agency to notify the victim of a release. **The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 0004.**