

State's Attorney  
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OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 07, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chairman  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB128 – Correctional Services – Geriatric and Medical Parole

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for **SB128 Correctional Services – Geriatric and Medical Parole**. Let me be crystal clear, regardless of any other testimony previously submitted by my remarkable colleagues from across the state, I personally stand steadfast in my support of this bill as written, free of any amendments.

As an elected representative of the people, we have to understand that it is our obligation as public servants to look at things from a holistic perspective when making decisions that can effect an entire community of individuals. This legislation speaks to the need of having compassion and instituting fairness into our criminal justice system, as it relates to those who have been convicted of a crime but have suffered some sort of chronically debilitating disease or terminal illness, or have been rendered physically incapable of presenting a danger to others or in need of community-based medical needs.

As the State's Attorney, it is my job to ensure that public safety is upheld and those who go astray of the law are held accountable, so make no mistake about it, I am all about ensuring that those convicted of crimes are held to those standards and held responsible for their actions. However, there also comes a time in a person's life that we must recognize that they no longer pose a threat to themselves or others, whether they have demonstrated through action, having shown to have changed their lives around, or they have grown physically and/or mentally incapable of being a threat to the public.

In these cases, we have to weigh the interest of public safety with that of the well-being of an individual's life, along with their mental and physical health and the circumstances that currently exist. This bill puts guardrails in place to protect the public from just anyone being granted this very specific parole, having to meet special conditions in order to be considered; and I believe that this is a compassionate piece of legislation that has been well thought out and thoroughly vetted, and for those reasons and more I support SB128 – and ask the members of this committee to do the same.

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Yours in service,

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