

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 123

Criminal Procedure – Petition to Reduce Sentence

FROM: Dr. Linda Green

Member, American Public Health Association, Life After Release

I, Linda D. Green MD, am writing to support Senate Bill 123 which will allow adults who have been incarcerated for 20 years to request a reduced sentence. This is similar to the JRA which I also had supported. I have been working with Life After Release for 5 years in Prince George's County and am a 40+ year member of the American Public Health Association. In addition I have reviewed cases and written medical summaries to help individuals through Aging People in Prison, Human Rights Campaign. Two important policies of the APHA were passed in the last few years to address the public health consequences of law enforcement violence and the long term effects of the carceral system. Thus I have been involved in learning and writing about the criminal legal system for the past decade.

I have also met many people released from prison and worked with them to get the medical care and support they need to more easily reenter society. This is a reasonable proposal from a public safety viewpoint as incarcerated individuals for a long period of time are rarely involved in further criminal activity. Financially the cost of providing medical care to older prisoners has become quite expensive and the system will save money overall even if there are more expenses for public defenders. I respectfully urge a favorable report.