

**TESTIMONY ON SB 123  
MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT**

**House Judiciary Committee  
March 28, 2024**

**FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS**

Submitted by: Alice Ebb

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee:

**My name is Alice Ebb and I am testifying in support of SB 123, the Maryland Second Look Act.** I am the impacted mother of my incarcerated son who is currently serving a life sentence without parole sentence at the Jessup Correctional Facility. I am speaking on behalf of the men and women who may be candidates for release under the Second Look Act (SB 123), should it become a law. I support the bill without the amendment that excludes certain people (sentenced under Criminal Law Article 3-303) from being able to ask for a second look. Whether or not someone gets a second chance should be decided on a case by case basis by the judge, and not based merely on their offense.

Plato said "The BEST decisions are made from knowledge and experience, not numbers." Similarly, Mark Twain categorized statistics as one of three types of lies. I refer to statements by these two gentlemen because policymakers tend to rely on statistical data when considering the passage of certain bills. In doing so, there is also the tendency to look at incarcerated individuals collectively as opposed to individually. Everyone behind bars does not commit a crime for the same reasons. There are incarcerated people who are remorseful for their offenses, and use their time, while incarcerated, to take advantage of every opportunity to improve themselves via workshops, seminars, and college classes.

I refer you to Eddie Harrison, who was on Death Row, whose sentence was commuted. Upon his release, he started a Pre-trial Intervention Program for Juveniles, working in partnership with HSA, and was very successful. Then there is Dr. Stanley Andrisse, an Endocrinologist and Professor at both Howard University and John Hopkins University. He is also the author of "From Jail Cell To PhD". These are just two examples of individuals who demonstrated their desire to move from lawbreaker to law-abiding citizens, giving back to the community.

I believe that the individuals who can provide strategies for decreasing crime and violence, especially with the youth, are behind bars. They lived it, and so they have the insight for what is

needed in the community. It begins with the root causes, and what society has failed to provide to address it.

In my own experience as a mother of someone who is incarcerated, I have suffered verbal abuse and finger pointing from community members and people that knew nothing about me. I had to vacate my home, and everything in it, due to retaliation.

I genuinely hope that you take into consideration all of the potential that is in those currently incarcerated, that have demonstrated a transformation, and can make significant contributions to society and vote **favorably with amendments** on the **Maryland Second Look Act SB 123**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.