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March 21, 2025

I am opposed to this bill because it has the unintended consequence of making the perpetrator of our son's hate-fueled violent murder eligible for undeserved early release from prison. This bill has no basis for upholding the principle of sanctity of life or the protection of public health and safety. In their paper, *We Are All Vulnerable: The in Terrorem Effects of Hate Crimes*, Barbara Perry and Shahid Alvi, note that "awareness of violence directed toward another within an identifiable target group yields strikingly similar patterns of emotional and behavioral responses among vicarious victims."² The study notes that for individuals who share the same identity as a victim, there is a heightened sense of fear that a repeat offense may occur (victims know they have been targeted based on a core aspect of their identity that cannot be changed) and a sense of mistrust of the offender's identified community. In addition, Perry and Alvi note that there is a feeling that members of the targeted community are unable to participate fully in the greater society. Students, faculty, and staff on the Bowie State University and UMD campuses continue to grapple with feelings of devastating loss. African American and other Black students remain traumatized by a sense of not belonging; and Black and Brown communities around the country must deal with a new level of fear of white supremacist violence. This bill would send a chilling message to law abiding citizens in Maryland and across the nation particularly given the data available today documenting the alarming rise of hate-fueled violence nationwide.

² Perry, Barbara, and Shahid Alvi, *We Are All Vulnerable: The in Terrorem Effects of Hate Crimes*, *International Review of Victimology* 18, no. 1 (January 2012): 57–71. doi:10.1177/0269758011422475.