

My name is Angela Fulton. I am here today to oppose House Bill 853. I am here on behalf of my family, my deceased brother, Warren Steven Slayman and countless other victims of violent crimes. It was over 30 years ago that Stevie was murdered. It seems like yesterday to my sister and me. If this bill were to pass, not only will we have to relive the most horrific time in our lives but our faith in the lawmakers and the justice system will forever be lost. The day he was murdered, he was shot three times, once in the chest and two times in the head and left in a culvert for dead. I wonder what Stevie was thinking whilst he lay there for the next several hours until he succumbed to his wounds. Was he thinking, will I get a second chance at a life? He was shot by someone who thought that Stevie was gay. My brother's murderer was 17 but only a few days shy of his 18th birthday.

I will never understand why lawmakers in the state of Maryland will continue to change or amend bills to give violent offenders second chances. I would bet not one of you has ever experienced the loss of a loved one at the hands of someone else. I have, and the absolute torment these bill proposals and amendments put me and my family through are unacceptable. How is it justice to give a murderer who was sentenced to life plus 15 a second look? Are you going to give my brother a second look and a second chance? I beg you to listen to each and every one of us today and to read the letters in opposition to HB853 and not just hear the impact a decision like this would have on many people but feel it with your heart and soul. Because that is where we are speaking from. We don't deserve this, our deceased loved ones don't deserve this disservice of justice. These criminals made their choices when they committed the crimes. We shouldn't have to go through this emotional turmoil time and time again. Thank you.