

## Testimony for Maryland Senate

On December 28, 2018, my whole life and the lives of my family changed forever when my sister Jaclyn (Jackie) McGuigan was murdered by her own son Kevin Justin McGuigan. The next three years between his arrest and finally his sentencing were the longest of my life. No one in our family felt safe, living in fear that he might get bail or be released for some reason. I know personally anytime I was at a home that I knew he knew about I would never feel fully comfortable and would often think about what I should do if I opened the door and he was on the other side. This fear stemmed from knowing that he had killed the one person who loved him most in the world, my sister Jackie, while previously trying to kill his own brother. My parents were never the same and have both died since this happened, likely sooner than they would have for some of the same fears. Before the trial came, we learned two incredibly horrible things. First that my nephew had tried to kill someone else while in custody and second that a life sentence only actually meant 30 years (15 with parole). The trial came and thankfully for us he decided to plead guilty and more importantly the judge sentenced him to 80 years in prison (40 with parole). He showed no signs of remorse nor did he apologize for his actions. I thought for my life that it was over. I would be likely dead before the first parole hearing. I would not be asked to relive what he did to my family. I was wrong the second the house passed the bill saying because he was under 25, he would essentially be eligible for a sentence reduction after 20 years. If this bill is passed now I have to worry about "Is he going to show up on my doorstep and slash my throat or my wife's throat?". Is he going to get out and terrorize his own brother and sister? To me passing this bill is re-victimizing anyone that has been part of a violent crime. And if you have never had someone you love be part of one, you don't know how it feels to think about them daily. My nephew being sentenced to 80

years meant we at least had 40 years to heal. So at a minimum, I ask that in addition to sex offenders, any violent crime be added to the exclusion list from this bill.