



**TESTIMONY ON HB853 - Favorable With Amendments  
MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
January 30, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

Submitted by: Dr. Brashani Reece, Alexandra Bailey

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

**We, Dr. Reece and Ms. Bailey, are testifying in support of HB853, the Maryland Second Look Act.**

Dr. Reece is the Executive Director of Drop LWOP New England, an organization dedicated to restoring hope to incarcerated people serving life sentences in the six New England states. Dr. Reece is a survivor of attempted murder and has a loved one currently serving a life without parole sentence.

Alexandra Bailey is the Chair of the Board of Directors for Drop LWOP New England. She is also a two-time survivor of domestic violence, and child sexual abuse survivor. Her loved one is also serving a life without parole sentence.

Passage of the Maryland Second Look Act would create a meaningful opportunity for sentence modification for incarcerated people after having served 20 years of their sentence. We firmly believe that those individuals who are able to demonstrate their growth and rehabilitation, such that they are no longer a threat to public safety, should have the opportunity for release.

Given the tendency for people to age out of crime and the very low recidivism rate for other individuals released from decades-long sentences, this decision is unlikely to negatively impact public safety. This has been seen with the Ungers, 200 Marylanders serving life sentences, who were released after the landmark case *Maryland v Unger*, who have a less than 4% recidivism rate<sup>1</sup>. **With the release of the Ungers, the state saved a projected \$185 million that would have been spent on keeping them incarcerated.**<sup>2</sup> We know many more men and women serving decades-long sentences who have worked hard, hoping for their chance to reenter and succeed in their communities.

For these reasons, and so many others, we encourage you to vote **favorably** on the **Maryland Second Look Act HB853**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brashani Reece, Executive Director  
Alexandra Bailey, Chair of the Board of Directors

<sup>1</sup> Justice Policy Institute [Fact Sheet: The Ungers](#) (2018)

<sup>2</sup> OSI-Baltimore [Building on the Unger Experience: A cost-benefit analysis of releasing aging prisoners](#) (2019)