

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 853 Criminal Law – Post Conviction Review – Procedure to Reduce Duration of Sentence (Maryland Second Look Act) – Unfavorable

Dear Chair Smith:

I am writing to you today to express my outrage to the passage of SB 853. This bill, more aptly named, should be titled Betrayal of Justice.

This bill is called the “Second Look Act”, but it is not a second look, or even a third look. Every convicted felon automatically is granted an appeal after a trial conviction, and if there is new evidence or a procedural error, the felon is granted an opportunity to file another appeal; so, at the very least, this is a fourth look. It is a bill, that if enacted, is a declaration to those guilty of committing heinous criminal acts that the state of Maryland has their back.

This is a pro-crime bill that supports the worst of humanity at the expense of the victims who have already suffered and will continue to suffer. This bill will just create more suffering for the innocent victims.

In the state of Maryland, approximately 41% of convicted felons who are released from prison commit crimes and are arrested again within 3 years. That means, if this bill becomes law, for every 100 felons who are released there will be 41 crimes committed, and many of them horrible and tragic, and all of them preventable.

In our case, one of the convicted felons, after murdering our son, stated “it was a 7-second show.” This is who this bill will put back on the streets. This is the worst of humanity that this bill supports. This bill is a betrayal of justice.

I entreat you to show the citizens of Maryland that you are responsible leaders and that you have compassion for the victims who have already suffered endlessly. I implore you to reject this bill.

Respectfully,

W. H. Tewelow

Montgomery County resident

The murder of our son was committed in Montgomery County, June 5th, 2017.