

March 25, 2025

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

**Re: HB 853 – Post Conviction Review – Procedure to Reduce Duration of Sentence (Maryland Second Look Act)**

Dear Chair Smith:

I am writing today in opposition of HB 853 which allows young adults who were convicted of serious crimes between the ages of 18 and 25 to petition a court for review of their sentence after they have been incarcerated for over 20 years. As previously stated in my victims' impact speech:

**State of Maryland v. Kaleab Abebe Berhanu  
Criminal Number C-15-CR-23-000775**

There is no rehabilitation for premeditation!

In life, everyone has freedom of choice. No matter how old you are or what background you come from, as humans we innately are able to choose. When you choose to murder someone. When you intentionally plan and conspire with multiple individuals to end another person's life. You then choose to live with those consequences. Just as when a life is tragically taken, the victims' family is given no choice but to live with the heartache and hardships of dealing with that loss. To jump over a backyard fence, shatter a rear glass door, kick in a bedroom door, stand over a sleeping human being and aim a shotgun at their face.

To pull the trigger with the intent of blowing someone's head off, leaving teeth lying on their pillow and blood pooling all over the floor. To stand there and watch someone fight for their life, in the basement of their mother's home with their younger siblings, mother and niece upstairs asleep. To proceed to fire another shot, striking that human being in his lower back as he tried to run away and seek help. To evade and then taunt the victim's family via social media after the fact.

To withstand trial and smile and grin as first responder's bodycam footage is presented of the victim lying there on the front porch of his family's home, bleeding out, dying.

As a mother pleads for help as she stands there watching the life leave her only sons mutilated body. Yet again, it was a choice. The defendant was presented with many options, yet he chose to proceed with his intended plan. Murder. The defendant commuted from Baltimore to Silver Spring, a 30-minute drive.

Each stop light was a chance.

Each stop sign was a chance.

Even the need to use the GPS was a chance.

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A chance to change his mind.

A chance to turn around.

A chance to seek help if these deadly thoughts plagued his mind, but most importantly a chance to not murder someone asleep in their bed in the early hours of Easter Sunday.

This was no accident; accidents are not premeditated. Premeditation leads to repetition. Premeditation requires thought, planning and execution. The defendant was well aware of his actions. He even chose to boast about the murder he committed in a rap song.

The defendant is not asking for a second chance at redemption. The defendant is asking for a second chance to murder! The defendant was no stranger to the judicial system with prior charges months before brutally murdering someone.

The victims should decide if the defendant gets a second chance. When the victim speaks that's when the defendant gets a second chance. There is no redemption for premeditated felony murder, only ammunition. The defendant possesses no remorse and if released, will kill again.

The Second Look Act will only encourage more malicious behavior and entice the minds of criminals. Criminals will develop the mindset of being untouchable and above the law.

On behalf of the victim of a brutal murder and my brother Carlos R. Carter. I, my family and millions of innocent victims **strongly oppose** the proposition of the HB 853 Maryland Second Look Act and ask the powers that be, to not pass this bill. As a Montgomery County resident and a victim impacted by these heinous crimes. Knowing murderers are behind bars is the only comfort we have.

Knowing justice has been served is the only thing that gives us peace of mind as we continue to heal.

Sincerely,

The Carter Family