



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**SB162 - Criminal Procedure - Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence –
Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation
Judicial Proceedings Committee January 27, 2026
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic clubs in our county with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. **WDC respectfully submits this testimony for the official record in support of Senate Bill 162.**

WDC proudly supported the 2021 passage of the Juvenile Restoration Act, which created a critical mechanism for sentencing review for individuals who were under 18 at the time of their offense.

SB 162 is a common sense, straightforward technical fix that ensures fairness in sentencing review by removing an arbitrary sentencing date limitation. It ensures that all children who were under 18 at the time of their offense have access to a meaningful opportunity for sentencing review—regardless of when they were sentenced.

Under current law, if a child under 18 and a young adult under 25 were arrested together today as co-defendants, the young adult could become eligible for sentence review after 20 years—while the child would not. This inconsistency is fundamentally unfair and runs counter to well established constitutional principles recognizing that children are different from adults for purposes of criminal sentencing. **SB 162 corrects this disparity and ensures that Maryland's sentencing review framework is applied fairly and consistently to children.**

WDC urges a favorable report on SB 162.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Lynn Olson
WDC The Basics
Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair