



The **CAMPAIGN** for the
FAIR SENTENCING
of **YOUTH**

Bill: Senate Bill 162
Title: Criminal Procedure – Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence – Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation
Date: January 23, 2026
Position: SUPPORT
Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee
CONTACT: Crystal Carpenter, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

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

My name is Crystal Carpenter. I serve as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) and have the honor of leading its **National Family Network** (NFN). I respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 162. I thank Senator West for introducing this legislation and appreciate the General Assembly’s continued commitment to fair and constitutional youth sentencing.

The CFSY is a national coalition working to end extreme youth sentencing and advance age-appropriate, constitutional approaches to accountability, healing, and public safety.

The NFN is a collective of family members and loved ones impacted by youth violence. This includes individuals who have lost loved ones to youth violence, as well as families of people serving lengthy adult sentences for acts committed as children. The Network promotes healing and restorative practices and works to end extreme sentences for youth, including life without the possibility of parole.

CFSY proudly supported the 2021 passage of the Juvenile Restoration Act, which created a meaningful opportunity for sentence review after 20 years for individuals who were under 18 at the time of their offense. However, the current sentencing date limitation leaves some children unfairly excluded from that opportunity.

SB 162 is a common-sense, straightforward technical fix that removes this arbitrary restriction and ensures that all children under 18—regardless of when they were sentenced—have access to

the same opportunity for review. This change promotes fairness, aligns with constitutional principles recognizing that children are different from adults for sentencing purposes, and reduces unnecessary legal risk for the state.

Most importantly, SB 162 restores hope—hope for families waiting for their loved ones to be seen as more than their worst mistake, and hope for young people inside who are working every day to grow and change. That hope should not depend on an arbitrary date in the statute.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 162. Thank you for your consideration.

Crystal Carpenter
Chief Operating Officer
Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth