

Senate Bill 162

Criminal Procedure – Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence – Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation

January 23, 2026

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Submitted by: Michele Kennedy-Kouadio, Vice President, A Mother's Cry

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

A Mother's Cry respectfully submits this testimony for the official record to express our **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 162**. Our Maryland state prisons and juvenile detention centers are overpopulated. Insufficient staffing and deteriorating facilities discourage rehabilitation particularly for such young minds.

SB 162 is a simple bill that ensures fundamental fairness and compliance with the U.S. Constitution in sentencing review.

A Mother's Cry receives calls regularly from those who have loved ones serving time in Maryland prisons. We know intimately the hopelessness and heartache that comes from trying to support our children who are suffering in deteriorating facilities.

SB 162 is a common-sense, straightforward technical fix to ensure these disparities don't exist. A meaningful opportunity for review should be available to all children under 18, regardless of when they were sentenced.

A Mother's Cry urges a favorable reporting on Senate Bill 162. Thank you for your serious consideration of this legislation.

Michele Kennedy Kouadio

Vice President

A Mother's Cry