



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES • SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM • PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT  
CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION • SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
CHILDREN • DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

January 14, 2019

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **RE: Senate Bill 36: Correctional Services - Eligibility for Parole - Life Imprisonment**

### **POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention is providing this letter of support for SB 36: Corrections Services- Eligibility for Parole- Life Imprisonment.

Current Maryland law states that an inmate sentenced to life imprisonment, is not eligible for parole consideration for 15 years or the equivalent when considering the allowances for diminution credits. SB 36 would continue this provision for crimes committed before October 1, 2020, and would create a new provision for crimes committed after October 1, 2020. The new provision states that inmates sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes committed after October 1, 2020 would not be eligible for parole consideration for 25 years or the functional equivalent when allocating diminution credits.

Governor Hogan has made reduction of violent crime a top priority for the administration, this includes proposing tougher sentences for repeat violent offenders. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has a multifaceted approach in creating a safer Maryland. Amongst the goals of the office are; identifying, disrupting, and dismantling violent criminal enterprises. This legislation would ensure that leaders of violent criminal networks are brought to justice for their actions in regards to time served prior to becoming eligible for parole consideration.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention respectfully requests a favorable ruling on SB 36.

For all inquiries, please contact  
Andy Baranauskas, Legislative Affairs Manager  
410-855-2538  
[Anthony.Baranauskas@maryland.gov](mailto:Anthony.Baranauskas@maryland.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director

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