
Kimberly Haven

February 3, 2020

Chairman Clippinger
Members of the House Judiciary

HB 323 – Second Look Act
Position: SUPPORT

My name is Kimberly Haven and I am in support of HB 323.

As one of the leading criminal justice advocates in our State, I urge this committee to support this legislation. HB 323 is an important step toward recognizing one of our core values – the beliefs in rehabilitation and redemption. This legislation offers a door of hope to individuals who have been incarcerated for a significant amount of time. I

We can no longer continue to think of long, punitive sentences as our only response. It is time to acknowledge the futility of these long sentences. These individuals who would be eligible for relief under this legislation are not the same people they were at the time of their crime. We must ask ourselves whether we want to continue to cage people who have shown that they are no longer a danger to public safety and can return to our communities.

HB 323 and the intent behind it, gives us an opportunity to live up to the ideal of prisons as “correctional” rather than merely “retributive”. Punishment is – and must be – predicated on the idea that the offender, like the victim, is a member of our community who will have the opportunity to be returned to our community.

I believe in rehabilitation and I believe in redemption – I know this committee does as well. HB 323 offers an opportunity for individuals to write a better story for their future and I urge this committee to allow them the chance to do just that.

I urge a favorable report on HB 323.

Respectfully,
Kimberly Haven