

Bill No: HB409
Title: Juvenile Restoration Act
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing Date: 1/21/21
Position: SUPPORT

Name: Jermaine Merriweather

Testimony in Support of HB 409

**Juveniles Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Limitations and Reduction (Juvenile Restoration Act)
House Judiciary Committee**

My name is Jermaine Merriweather and at the age of 15 years old I went to prison and was sentenced to three life sentences plus 37 years for a very serious crime. I come before this legislative body, a grown and mature man. I served almost 28 years in prison, before I was released by a judge who believed I was deserving of a second chance. Unfortunately, the opportunity that I was given is not currently available to everyone, although, I know that there are many more people behind the prison walls that has worked equally, if not harder, as I have, to change their lives. I'm here today to show you all that rehabilitation is possible. I proved by my behavior that I have changed, and I am here today as a living testament that kids do change. I've been home a little over a month and I'm working and being a productive member of society. I thank you all for your time and consideration for this bill. I humbly ask that you vote favorably on HB409.