

Cynthia C. Phillips Testimony in Favor of SB 803

Mr. Chair, members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, for the record my name is Cynthia Phillips and I am a Drinking Driver Monitor II serving with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services since June of 1999. I would like to thank Senator Guzzone for bringing this legislation forward.

I have been a Drinking Driver Monitor II for longer than I can actually remember. I have put many years of my heart and soul into this job because for me it is personal. I have had friends and family die due to drunk drivers and alcohol abuse. I have also had one of my offenders kill a 14 year old whose mother is an advocate with Shock Trauma and Victim Impact Panels in Harford and Cecil County. I love my job and I want to help. I love my job despite the number of caseloads which exceed well over 100 people that I have to handle. Despite the incredible understaffing that our agency faces, with vacant positions at almost 40% agency wide and despite the fact that there are days where I feel too overwhelmed by the amount of work I'm asked to take on. Despite all of this, I love my job and I want to keep doing it.

The fact of the matter is that all of my years of experience and dedication feel unappreciated by the State. Parole and Probation Agents, who I serve next to everyday, have a career ladder in place. Drinking Driver Monitors do not. You're hired as a Drinking Driver Monitor I, within a few years if you do your job well you're promoted to a Drinking Driver Monitor II, and then you are stuck unless you want to become a supervisor-which not all of us want to do because we like helping people. There should be a position in place that recognizes that those years of experience and expertise that we bring to the job should be acknowledged.

Passing this legislation, which would create a Drinking Driver Monitor III position, a senior position, would go towards acknowledging that respect that our dedication deserves. With so many challenges put before us, sometimes a little respect and appreciation is what we need and showing that by doing something like this legislation is what we need. Thank you for listening to me today, and please pass this legislation.

Thank you!