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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 587

Division of Parole and Probation - Duties - Offenders Under Supervision (Parole and Probation Performance Act)

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 587. It is crucial that our public safety agencies evaluate and examine the consistent rate of murders involving Maryland's supervised offenders under their purview. In efforts to increase accountability and decrease crime, I propose the Parole and Probation Performance Act.

Under Senate Bill 587, the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), which is within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), will be required to assess, review, and provide the Secretary of DPSCS with an analysis of murders involving offenders under DPP supervision. In turn, the Secretary is directed to utilize this information to implement the policies and programs necessary to combat future murders. This effort is necessary to reduce the number of homicides involving offenders under DPP's watch, as the bill puts forth measures that will increase awareness of and accountability for current parole and probation populations.

Requiring a comprehensive assessment of supervised offenders and the related range of violent crimes involving them will provide DPSCS with critical information that will aid supervision efforts, as well as navigating to abate further crime. In directing DPP to review and analyze this information, we are ensuring that our key agencies are equipped to make better informed decisions and implement data-driven initiatives, improving our public safety systems.

If enacted, Senate Bill 587 will take effect on October 1, 2022, and will require the adoption of new practices in accordance with the change in law.

For the aforementioned reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 587.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45th District