



March 15, 2022

Support

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT for Criminal Procedure – Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher and Committee Members:

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I support with amendment Senate Bill 300 which requires an Assistant State's Attorney to meet with a victim of "sexually assaultive behavior" at the request of the victim, within 20 days, after a decision by a State's Attorney's Office not to file a charging document against an alleged suspect or to dismiss charges against an alleged suspect.

The Baltimore City State's Attorney Office has no objection overall to this bill because the proposed requirement is something that we have already put into practice. If a victim requests to speak to the Assistant State's Attorney who reviewed their case, our ASAs are always open and willing to meet with them (either in person or by telephone). I propose, however, to amend this bill to increase the number of days that an ASA has to meet with a victim from 20 days to 60 days.

A major concern for the ASAs in my office is the 20 day time limit referenced in the legislation. The ASAs who handle these types of matters believe that the time limit is not practical. In Baltimore City, we have an extremely high volume of sex offense investigations. On average a prosecutor in our Special Victims Unit carries between 75 and 100 charged cases in addition to their assigned investigations. This means that they are in court most days of the week and/or preparing for trial. To ensure that we are working at our most efficient and victim-focused manner, we ask that more time be allotted to meet with victims and/or the victim's representative in instances where an ASA meeting is requested.

For these reasons, I request a favorable report with amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn J. Mosby".

Marilyn J. Mosby

State's Attorney for Baltimore City