

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
Legislative District 22  
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 209  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3058 · 410-841-3058  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3058  
Nicole.Williams@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill 958**

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon and the members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying in favor of **House Bill 958**, also known as **Post Conviction Review - Motion for Reduction of Sentence**. This legislation allows the State's Attorney to file a motion to reduce a sentence of an incarcerated individual if a lesser sentence is in the best interest of justice.

In the state of Maryland, there are approximately 36,000 people currently behind bars, with people of color being disproportionately affected. The state is no stranger to mass incarceration and strict mandatory minimum sentences, which we have worked over the years to eradicate. This bill would allow the state's attorney of the jurisdiction where the criminal case and sentencing took place to ask the court to consider a reduced sentence for an inmate if they believe it would be in the best interest of the individual and society as a whole.

This bill will offer a second chance to incarcerated individuals after they have proved themselves to be at a reduced risk for perpetuating future violence. Multiple factors must be taken into consideration when petitioning the court, including an inmate's disciplinary record and record of rehabilitation, any evidence that shows that age or time served has lessened the likelihood of future violence, and whether or not an individual's circumstances have changed since the inmates' original conviction.

This is not a decision that would be made lightly, but one that is made with the best interests of everyone in mind. Incarceration has a devastating effect on an individual, their families and their community. If someone has put in the effort to change and better themselves during their period of incarceration, it would be an injustice to not revisit their original sentence and to rob them of a chance at a new future.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 958.

Sincerely,

*Nicole A. Williams, Esq.*

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.