

Greetings,

My name is Giselle A. Mörch, I reside in Silver Spring, Maryland (Montgomery County). I am in support of **SB0684 Criminal Procedure- Victims' Rights – Notification of Release From Confinement** and here's why.

At the age of 19, I was a victim of rape. My concern was that people would ask "What did you do?" when I did nothing.

While I was in my early 30's I married my first husband and was a victim of domestic violence (physical, mental, emotional, verbal threats etc..). He was given a life sentenced without the eligibility for parole. At his sentencing he was ordered to have no communications with my family. Since this was court ordered and by him being incarcerated, my family and I felt safe and could go about our daily lives. But, for the last several years he has been sending letters to the house from his correctional facility. Each time, I or another family member would mark on the unopened envelop "Refused, not supposed to communicate" but the letters continued to be mailed from the correction facility to my home. The only way the letters ceased from coming was when another family member contacted the authorities and informed them that this was in violations to what they ordered and how could this happen when it was stated in court and in the legal documents. The system failed me and my family. The system waits for something to occur to then act instead of prevention it waits for the problem. So, finally the last letter from him stopped coming last year (2022). The system failed me by allowing him to even send letters to our address knowing that he was not allowed to do so.

In my 50's my current husband's only offspring (son) and daughter-in-law was killed in a tragic car accident that left behind children. The driver who killed my stepson and daughter-in-law was never sentenced and is freely living his life, while other families has had their life forever altered. The comfort is knowing that God and His Son Jesus has the final word and judgment.

The reason that I am here also happened while in my 50's. My only son, Jon-Christian Kemachet-Webster a.k.a Jaycee Webster (to be known henceforth as Jaycee Webster) was murdered in our home. The individuals involved were 1. Intended target (Max) who stayed behind and gave names of the driver, robber, and gunman. 2. The driver (Réquan) who drove the individuals to the house, drove the gunman away while dragging me 3. The robber (Oliver) who was arrested at his job the very next day without any remorse and told the Judge at his sentencing that this was a "black on black crime" where the judge replied that it was the taking of a life crime. 4. The gunman (Brian) who was released from Prince Georges Maryland County jail and 7 days later my son was executed gunshot wound to the chest.

As a victim of the incident involving the murder of my son, Jaycee Webster. The day after my son was murdered, I went on the local television news channel and set myself up for the 3 individuals (driver, robber & gunman) to come after me. The local Montgomery County law enforcement was in the area knowing that I set myself up. They provided the protection needed at that time to only help in apprehending the criminals. This was not needed in apprehending the criminals as the 3 individuals were finally caught and taken into custody because of excellent detectives and police in several jurisdictions working together to apprehend them. Please note that they had to be caught and no one turned themselves in to the authorities. The evening my Jaycee was murdered, a police officer who worked the case and just gotten off duty was kind enough to drive me and escort me into the hospital where my deceased son was taken.

There was no trial as all 3 individuals plead guilty. The next time I saw them again was at each one's individual sentencing. Other family members and, neighbors each wrote victim impact statements for each individual criminal. How do you write a victim's impact statement that would explain just how much what they each did destroyed a family? How do you write about who your loved one is as a person and what that does to your family? How do you tell people who Jaycee is?

As a victim, appearing in court was equally hard. To actually see who took the life of your child. To have them look at you with whatever expression they want to give you. To know that you can't verbalize your reactions while in the courtroom or you are asked to leave. They murdered my son and now I had to sit there in silence or be asked to leave. That is mental and physical agony. I am the protector, and I can't defend my child that I birthed but rather I have to sit there and listen with no reaction.

I am not the only victim involved in the murder of my son Jaycee Webster. The list of victims impacted and involved in his assassination is rather long. To begin, those that was in the house to hear the shocking gun shots includes my father (deceased), sister, daughters as well as a 3-year-old grandchild. We all suffer from PTSD so imagine hearing fireworks on the 4th of July or a noise from a vehicle. Imagine one of my daughters the mother of the 3-year-old grandchild while viewing his uncle's body at the funeral home and saying, "Goodbye Uncle Jaycee". That same 3-year-old grandchild will be 10 years old this year. Imagine the cost for therapist to make this poor child as well as other victims feel safe and whole again. Then there's my other daughter whose son will never get to know his uncle. Her brother was her best friend and now he was taken from her. She has given her son the name of Jaycee, so now I have another Jaycee in honor of our beloved Jaycee.

Now comes Jaycee's two friends that had just pulled up in their car to the house that night. Imagine what they experienced when they saw me chasing after the gunman and being dragged by the getaway car. Imagine what they experienced when one of the friends came in the house and was assisting Jaycee's sisters with medical attention.

Imagine, when the police came in the house and had us placed in a separate room and not being able to see your child being carried out of the house. Victims, being placed in a room while my son was carried out as a victim. Victims being victimized for being a victim.

The other victims would be my brother who could not do anything as he heard the words of what happened as he lives in another place. His feeling of feeling helpless to protect and comfort his family. Another one of my sister who was at work at the time, rushed from work to get to the hospital and could not be with her nephew nor with me as I was in another room in the hospital. Where I was taken to have the hospital staff as well as a detective inform me that my son is gone, and his body must now go up to forensics for evidence.

Imagine Jaycee's other friends who received word of his passing and came to the hospital to surround me and the shock on each and everyone's face.

Imagine the neighbors that knew Jaycee and the family all of us victims. Imagine our community of neighbors, our church, synagogue, mosque families. The extended families of cousins, close friends, our co-workers and physicians, old schoolteachers the list goes on, but these are all victims. Victims in knowing and having a relationship with the victim.

What about my family, Jaycee's friends as well as the various organizations representatives from Mother's of Murdered Sons and Daughters, No Other Mother, Deep Forgiveness, Coalition of Concerned Women and countless other organizations who came to each of the sentencing. Who's face the driver, robber and gunman has seen them in court. These representatives for Jaycee are all victims. Jaycee was the first of his friends to be murdered to die violently. These young people have been victimized and still trying to deal with that.

The organization called, Parents of Murdered Children's have assisted me in both writing victim impact statements as well as signing petitions to block paroles and in helping with the healing process of grief.

I recall at one of the parole board hearings, the robber was denied parole because he did not do all that was required of him, so parole was denied. Then, on June 8th of last year I receive a lettering informing me that the robber (Oliver) will be released on August 1.

This letter (I would actually call it a note or something that you would write on a Post-It note) came from Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services which was a 3 sentenced letter which reads:

Dear Ms. Morch:

We currently have a victim notification request from you on file advising us that you would like to be notified in advance of the referenced inmate's actual release date. Please note that this letter is for notification purposes only.

Please be advised that the above-referenced inmate is scheduled for mandatory supervision Release on 8/1/2022.

An additional information page was attached which the first paragraph reads:

Once the inmate is released from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Services, he/she is no longer under the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. However, if there are any safety concerns, you are **encouraged to contact your local police department** or you may contact one of the telephone numbers below"

Why was I not informed perhaps in January instead of in June? What if the mail did not finally arrive to me until July? What about the other victims (other family members, friends, organizations, anyone that the robber ~his family and friends could identify or connect with Jaycee) would they retaliate on them? Does the law enforcement have enough man/woman power to come quickly to my defense? Would this be like when I was raped to think there might be a biased opinion of what I might have done to bring it on myself? Would this be like the case of my ex-husband where it falls through the system again until something awful happens to awaken the eyes? Would it be like my husband where nothing happened to the driver that killed my stepson and daughter-in-law? Would it be like the other parents from different organizations that want justice for their loved ones only to see what this justice really looks like? In Micah 6:8 it reads: "... and what is it LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God."

What I don't understand is how an agency called Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services sides more on the correctional part and not on the public safety part. How can you a Dept on Public Safety send a three-sentence letter regarding the release of someone involved in the taking off a life (Jaycee) send me a letter so impersonal. How can they express that if a victim feels threatened that the victim must seek the help of there local police department. One then must assume that there's law enforcement that is fully staffed. One must assume that your concerns would be taken seriously. One must assume that there would be no prejudicial issues. One must hope that aid will arrive in a timely manner. As for the Correctional Services part they can only try to make sure that person attends supervision.

Why must a victim be the one to now have to contact Maryland Parole Commission to make sure that there's a no contact request in place when you would think it would be up to the Parole Commission to do so as a preventive measure.

It is often said that a criminal gets more than a victim and that is very true. A criminal does the crime. A criminal is caught. A criminal plays the system by faking his/her good behavior act just to reduce their time. A criminal gets credit for time served even if that means that they did not turn themselves in but rather the use of law enforcements skills had to capture them. A criminal can grin or do whatever in court. To a criminal, being released from a correctional facility is a badge to indicate just how tough there are when they come back into the community. It gives them bragging rights.

It's now time to show how tough the victims have always been. Now let's look at the victim. A victim identifies the body or see's the crime taking place. A victim writes their victims impact statement, testifies. A victim must live their lives without their loved one (or live with their injuries). A victim and their families get life. Jaycee body is serving life in the grave while his spirit is living life in Heaven with God, Jesus, the angels, and other loved ones.

This bill is important to me as my Jaycee has always been the defender of the weak. He has been the defender in the family and with his friends. He has been the one that would say that he's going to do it so that the other person does not get hurt even as a result that it cost him his life.

At one of the sentencing's, I remember one of the state attorneys telling me that if you want to change the outcome you have to change the law. This world is full of darkness but let this bill be the light of hope to shine forth. This world is full of the darkness of rape, domestic violence, foreign and domestic terrorist attacks, accidents, stabbings, and gun violence that continues to get worse. But there's also the light of hope Jesus, hope in knowing that as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that".

As I think about the courage Queen Esther had to make in helping to save her people from the evil Haman, For Such A Time As This, and what Jesus did to save us from this wicked world because of God's Love, I have hope, hope in believing that this bill will pass to give victims of all crimes a voice and to know that the Dept of Public Safety is on there side. To know that sending out notifications in a timely manner, confirming that the victim received the notification, showing some form of compassion instead of such an insensitive note (as that is what I received was a note not a letter) providing adequate instructions and assistance for the victim. Let this be the Time and let God's Love shine.

One of Jaycee's sayings was that "I may not change the world, but I want to inspire many." I am here in hope's that you can help me honor my son by in fact being a change agent in the state of Maryland by changing the law to be more towards the victims. The change to victims by **supporting SB0684** by giving **Victim's Rights – Notification of Release From Confinement** a "Yes" vote to protect victims, protect our community.

I hope that you will be inspired to help victims from knowing that they will not always be a victim. I hope to inspire you to not treat a victim as a victim and for victims to know that they will rise above this and not be known as a victim.

Every morning Jaycee and I would say to each other "I love you, be safe and God Bless". It's stings that I could not keep my son safe but because of what I have gone through and by having the opportunity to be in front of you now. I can still say to my son, "I love you" and I can do my part to keep people safe and to love others as how God would want us to Love God and love everyone as we love ourselves.

Thank you,

Giselle A. Mörch

the mother of murdered son Jon-Christian Kemachet-Webster a.k.a Jaycee Webster

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