



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY by Senator C. Anthony Muse

SB 507: Criminal Procedure – Incompetency to Stand Trial – Dismissal of Charges and Victims' Rights

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Senate Bill 507 would authorize a victim or a victim's representative to petition the court to extend the time for dismissal of certain charges against a defendant who was found incompetent to stand trial. This legislation aims to fix an issue in the statute, and it helps to give the victim of a crime *a voice*.

Also, Senate Bill 507 does not mean that the courts will grant a crime victim's request, but it will give victims the ability to ask the court for needed relief in extraordinary cases. Lastly, continued charges and supervision protect victims and the community when a defendant is incompetent to stand trial and dangerous. It is critical to understand that if charges are not continued, the defendant will no longer have supervision.

Therefore, I urge this committee for a FAVORABLE report for SB 507