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To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Carrie J. Williams, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

Date: 1/24/2023

Subject: HB47 – Correctional Services – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment

Position: Support

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law and Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) Supports HB47 – Correctional Services – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment.

This bill removes the Governor from the approval process for medical parole. It closes a gap left by the adoption of legislation that removed the Governor from other parole decisions.

The growing number of inmates in the state penal system who are in need of a high degree of medical care poses continuing problems for the State. Removing an obstacle that can prevent the release of inmates who need care and who no longer pose a danger to the public is a wise action.

For the reasons stated, we support HB47 – Correctional Services – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment.

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 410-783-4062 or at carriej.williams@gmail.com.