

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 9, 2024

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chair Will Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 554 – Criminal Procedure – Not Criminally Responsible Verdict – Term of Commitment

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 554 – Criminal Procedure – Not Criminally Responsible Verdict – Term of Commitment. In June of 2022, the Washington County Community suffered a tragic loss when Mark Alan Frey, Charles Edward Minnick, and Joshua Robert Wallace were gunned down and murdered at their workplace by a disgruntled employee. The shooter fled the scene, only to be apprehended following a shootout with Maryland State Police Officers where State Police Detective Sergeant Phillip Martin was shot and wounded.

Fast forward to April of 2023. The families of the three murder victims were informed that this killer would not receive any prison time for his confessed crimes. Instead, he was deemed not criminally responsible for his actions and as such, would be committed to Clifton T. Perkins Psychiatric Hospital. The victims' families were then advised that if this murderer was found to no longer be a threat or a danger to himself or others, he could be eligible for release without any rehabilitation in a state correctional facility.

Two months later, in June of 2023, just one year after this horrific event, this individual was given the option to be evaluated for potential release back into our community. He did not contest his commitment at that time. However, under current law, he can be evaluated for release again in one year. SB 554, if passed, would require the court, after a verdict of not criminally responsible for murder in the first degree to commit a defendant to a designated healthcare facility for life. Similarly, it would require the court, after a verdict of not criminally responsible for murder in the second degree to commit a defendant to a designated healthcare facility for a term up to 40 years.

The intent here is that if an individual has committed murder in either the first or second degree that they would not be eligible for release in the same manner that they currently are. The families of the victims deserve better, and it is agonizing for them to now have to relive this horrific experience on an annual basis; knowing that the individual that murdered their loved ones could be released in as little as a year after undergoing therapeutic treatment.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 554.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties