

**Senate Bill 554 - UNFAVORABLE**  
**Judicial Proceedings**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 554, regarding mandatory terms of commitment for people found not criminally responsible, an Unfavorable report.

Senate Bill 554 would force judges to sentence people who are found to be not criminally responsible for their actions with life or up to 40 years in a prison-type facility. We're talking about people who are significantly impaired and unable to control their actions or understand the consequences of their actions, such as due to a psychotic episode or a significant cognitive disability. This bill would treat people who are considered "not criminally responsible" criminally responsible. Imposing a mandatory sentence, rather than allowing judges to handle each case individually after understanding the entirety of the situation, amounts to punishing people for their disabilities. This is cruel, inhumane, and discriminatory.

I urge you to give Senate Bill 554 an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD