

Good afternoon,

My name is Angie Frey. I have just two minutes today to make an impact on you and hopefully make a difference. On June 9, 2022, my husband, Mark Alan Frey was murdered in cold blood along with his co-workers CJ Minnick and Josh Wallace, at Columbia Machine in Smithsburg MD. During an afternoon break the shooter, a 23-year-old Latino man from Texas, put 7 bullets in my husband. He proceeded to shoot CJ Minnick 3 times, and Josh Wallace 9. Those shots resulted in the deaths of all three men. He also shot Brandon Micheal 4 times and later shot a police officer. They each survived. For his heinous crimes, the killer was given a plea deal from Judge Brian Wilson in the Washington County Circuit Court and was found to Not be criminally responsible for his actions at the exact moment that he pulled the trigger. He did not stand trial. His crimes were not heard by a jury of 12 of his peers. We were not permitted to appeal the decision. We were not permitted to request another opinion. The Maryland law was completely geared toward the benefit of the criminal. He was not sentenced to a period of incarceration for murdering 3 people. Instead, he was placed in a hospital until he is deemed to no longer be a threat to himself or others. When that day comes, he will not go to prison, or any other facility. He will be free. Free to kill again. Free to roam among innocent, unsuspecting people. He is schizophrenic and there is no cure for this mental illness. He cannot be rehabilitated.

The first review for his release came just 30 days after his initial placement. We were not informed this would happen and we, the families of the victims, were all quite shocked. When I inquired, I was told by Valerie Grimes at Clifton Perkins that Mr. Esquivel is "entitled" to be reviewed for release because his civil liberties were taken from him. What kind of world do we live in where that is an acceptable response to the wife of a murder victim?

The killer stalked my husband as early as March 2022. He talked about him on the dark web. He had photos of my husband's truck. Police are unable to tell me how much information he had or shared about us due to the anonymity of those types of web sites. Even with the substantial amount of evidence detectives had showing that he planned this killing; he planned his escape; he carried the guns in his car, he went to his car and retrieved his firearms and put on a song called Pull the Trigger, and a doctor said he was not responsible at the exact time the shots were fired. Please keep in mind that every 12 months he will be eligible for release. Every 12 months, the families' wounds are torn open. Every 12 months he is eligible to be freed while I have been sentenced to this miserable life without Mark. Since June 9th, 2022, I live in fear and I watch over my shoulder everywhere I go. I am a 56-year-old grandmother diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, acute depression, anxiety, and sentenced to live the rest of my life without my husband by my side. My grandson will never know his grandfather. Lisa Minnick is raising a 3-year-old little girl without her Daddy. Josh's Mother, Tammy, is here today and will share her loss with you.

When we learned of the "not criminally responsible" plea on November 17, 2022, during a meeting at the Washington County Courthouse, we were outraged. Without compassion, Prosecutor Christopher McCormick told us if we didn't like it to contact state law makers. So, I did. I emailed every email address I could find on MD.gov. It was Senator Paul Corderman who has chosen to make a difference by introducing Senate Bill 554.

Senate Bill 554, as I understand, allows the mentally ill to get the treatment they need while eliminating the annual review for release. For the charge of murder in the first degree, the criminal is committed to a facility for life. Bill 554 removes the atrocity of a murderer being set free. It eliminates the pain those annual reviews cause the families of the deceased. It gives those left behind peace of mind and time to heal.

In recent weeks, I've seen that Maryland Governor Wes Moore has an initiative to make Maryland a safer place. Now is the perfect time to make the laws of the state favor its citizens and not the criminals. You can make a difference today by voting in favor of Bill 554 because this problem is only going to get worse. Mental illness is on the rise and state facilities are overcrowded. All it takes is one overworked doctor to need to free up bed space and criminals like Joe Esquivel are freed back into our communities. Back into communities to kill again. Would you be ok with him living beside your family?

Please do not allow Mark Frey to have died for nothing. Vote yes for this bill and keep killers where they belong.