

**TESTIMONY ON HB 724
MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT**

**House Judiciary Committee
February 13, 2024**

SUPPORT

Submitted by: Barbara Ann Sealover

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Barbara Ann Sealover and I am testifying in support of HB 724, the Maryland Second Look Act.

As the mother of an incarcerated person, this bill would greatly impact the life of my whole family. For the past 18 years, we have done our very best to support my son in prison. His absence fractured our family back then, and we have recovered the best we can. We have continued supporting our son throughout his incarceration, even given the financial hardship on our family. I personally took out my retirement to spend on lawyers to support him, so that he could have the opportunity to one day come home. The thought of him rejoining our family, community and becoming a productive member of society again gives us hope.

During my son's incarceration, he found out he has a daughter and is now a grandfather of two beautiful babies. This has impacted him greatly and given him such hope for his future.

The man that sits in prison today is a far cry from the kid that committed crimes all those years ago. Through time, rehabilitation and maturity, my son is not the person who was locked up and sentenced many years ago. He no longer acts or thinks the way a 20 something kid does with no life or responsibility. He is a 42 year old man with a plan for his life and a reason to live and succeed on the outside. This bill would give him the opportunity to prove that he would be a statistic of success.

I implore you to vote **favorably** on the **Maryland Second Look Act HB 724**.