



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 06, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Support of HB301** – Correctional Services - Diminution of a Term of Confinement - First-Degree Rape and First-Degree Sexual Offense (Pava Marie LaPere Act)

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary:

I am writing to express my **Support for HB301 Correctional Services - Diminution of a Term of Confinement - First-Degree Rape and First-Degree Sexual Offense (Pava Marie LaPere Act)**. As Baltimore City State's Attorney, I believe that this bill is crucial in addressing the serious issue of the early release of first-degree rape and sexual offenders from our state's correctional system. House Bill 301 aims to prohibit incarcerated individuals for these specific sexual offenses from earning diminution credits towards their terms of confinement. This reform is essential to ensuring justice for victims, preventing further harm, and protecting public safety.

Data from states that have implemented restrictions on diminution credits for first-degree sex offenses highlights the importance of House Bill 301. In California, where laws were enacted to limit credits for certain sexual offenses, there was a marked decrease in the rate of recidivism among offenders released from incarceration, indicating the effectiveness of such measures in promoting public safety and reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

In Maryland, recent data from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services reveals concerning statistics regarding the release of incarcerated individuals convicted of first-degree rape or sexual offenses. Between FY2014 to FY2023, there were 11 incarcerated individuals released on parole who had either been charged with rape first degree, sex offense first degree, or both. Additionally, during the same period, 199 incarcerated individuals were released due to diminution credits despite having charges of rape first degree, sex offense first degree, or both.



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By repealing and reenacting specific provisions in Article 3-702 of the Correctional Services section, this bill sends a clear message that the sentences for such heinous crimes will be fully enforced, and convicted individuals will face significant consequences for their actions that undoubtedly inflicted devastating trauma to both victims and their loved ones.

I commend Delegate Embry for her leadership in introducing this legislation on my office's behalf, and her commitment to protecting the rights and safety of all individuals, especially victims of sexual violence. I sincerely hope you will consider **supporting House Bill 301** and advocating for its passage. This bill represents a significant opportunity to make our correctional system more just and equitable for all.

Yours in service,

*Ivan J. Bates*

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City