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To: House and Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
Favorable Support

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I am writing to express my personal connection as to why the MD Second Look Act should be passed. I am 67 years old, transgendered and an Honorably Discharged Navy veteran. I joined the military at age 17 and was released from Active Duty October 28, 1980.

I was incarcerated March 28, 1981 at the age of 23. I have served over 43 years, day for day, since this date. Having never been incarcerated before, survival was extremely difficult for me, in addition to being addicted to drugs and alcohol.

I began my incarceration at the Maryland Penitentiary, 954 Forrest St. in Baltimore. I was on Protective Custody (P.C.) for 3 years before being forced to move into population. I worked as a Teacher's Aide/Tutor for GED students on P.C.

Once in population I began to rehabilitate myself through Psychological Therapy and working

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to assist others as a Teacher's Aide/Tutor in the Vocational Drafting/Woodshop program. As well as attending and participating in A.A., Jaycees, Concerned Veterans 954, and the Coppin State College Extension Program, eventually earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with a 3.699 G.P.A. and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor. As well as eventually working for M.C.E. Graphics as a Mechanic.

It took me 15 years to become totally sober and defeat my Substance Abuse problem. I was transferred to R.C.I. in 1993 and then to M.C.I.H. in 1996. At M.C.I.H. I began training as an A.V.P. Facilitator, becoming Certified in 1999 and working with Community Correctional Services Comm. as well as lifestyles and Jaycees, while continuing to assist others as a Teacher's Aide/Tutor in the school program. It was in 2001, when I found my Spiritual Path at M.C.I.H. - Native American/Wicca.

Transferred to Jessup - Maryland House of Corr. in 2003, I again worked for S.V.I./M.C.E., learning to sew in the Uniform Shop. Continuing to serve others as an A.V.P. Facilitator, Veterans group and attending A.A. and Native American services. Sent to W.C.I. - Cumberland in 2007 and back to M.C.T.C. Hagerstown in 2008.

I continued to serve Veterans Group and A.V.P. as a Facilitator. Transferred back to J.C.I. in 2009 again working in the Uniform Shop for S.V.I./M.C.E., attending Native American and A.V.P. Again sent back to Hagerstown, M.C.T.C. then M.C.I.H. (again) serving as A.V.P. Facilitator and Veteran's group Board member. Continuing to work at M.C.E. as a Clerk and welder in Metal II, as well as eventually volunteering for America's Vet Dog program, training Service Dogs.

In 2014 transferred to E.C.I. and working for M.C.E., Veterans and A.V.P., as a welder in the Furniture Repair Shop. Once again coming back to R.C.I. in 2019 I came out as Transgender and received H.R.T. Working as Catalog Clerk for H.V.#1 (3 years), as A.V.P. Facilitator and in the Veteran's Group.

August 23, 2023 I was diagnosed with H.P.V. Throat Cancer and treated with Radiation and Chemotherapy at John's Hopkins Hospital beginning Feb. 2, 2024. I am still recovering from this as well as being hospitalized in July 2024, for a near fatal Blood Clot in my lungs.

I was treated at Meritus Medical Center, spending 5 days in I.C.U. (10 days total) and have been recovering since then.

I feel that I have proven that I deserve a chance to be released from Prison and be able to serve the Community at large. I have resolved my problems and overcome my faults. I have continuously given Service to others and find that this helps me to be peaceful and calm as well as Spiritually centered.

I am currently serving as High Priest/Facilitator for the Wicca group, and helping to get A.V.P. back up and functioning after CV-19 restrictions. I am also helping the Veterans group and remain in Psychological Counseling.

Many family members have passed away, including my mother, father, brother, sister and my youngest son. My two remaining children (1 daughter, 1 son) are a part of my life as well as my grandchildren.

I pray you will give this testimony to the Committee and help US get a Second Chance to be of service to others. There are many others like myself, who deserve this. Our experiences are valuable to others who need help. I would like to continue my service to others when released and become a counselor.

Very Sincerely

Deirdre N. Rose