

Donald J. Bovello
7493 E. Furnace Branch Road
Apt. F
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 291 – Maryland Second Look Act

Greetings Honorable Senators of the State of Maryland,

My name is Donald Bovello and I am one of Maryland's returned, former Juvenile Lifers who served over 35 years of a life+20 year sentence. If not for the Juvenile Restoration Act, I believe that I would have died in prison as all of my legal remedies had been exhausted, and parole, while recommended by the Maryland Parole Commission, was denied by the Governor. I have been a resident, taxpayer, full-time employee and advocate since August 2022 and have recently experienced the blessing of marriage to a wonderful woman.

Over the past few decades, there have been revisions of Maryland Law and Rules which have limited legal remedies and capped the time to seek a Modification/Reconsideration of Sentence (MD Rule 4-345) to 5 years after filing a motion in the Circuit Court. These changes have denied many Marylanders who are incarcerated the opportunity to receive a genuine look, by the sentencing court, at their progress while incarcerated. Speaking from experience and observation, it is almost impossible to participate in programming that can effect change and show rehabilitation within a 5 year period. Maryland Courts are reluctant to change a sentence when a defendant has little to nothing to show for their time in prison.

The Maryland Second Look Act will allow Marylander's who are incarcerated to have the time necessary to participate in available programming, contemplate their thoughts and actions, and choose a better path in life, leading to genuine change.

This bill will allow those with lengthy sentences the opportunity to be assessed, present to the sentencing court their remorse and progress, and allow the sentencing court to determine if, based on all of the facts, a change in the sentence is merited.

Our State Motto is "No One Left Behind". Let's not leave our rehabilitated Maryland women and men who are incarcerated behind. Please give a favorable report on SB291.

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB 291 and for your service to the Great State of Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald J. Bovello
djbovello@gmail.com