



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DELTA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 145TH AVIATION REGIMENT
5205 MINUTE MAN STREET
FORT NOVOSHEL, ALABAMA 36362-5105

ATZQ-BDE-OD

28 JANUARY 2025

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: Letter of Support per the Second Look Act of 2024 and SB 0291 in Maryland

1. The purpose of this letter is to advocate for support of SB 0291, introduced on November 21, 2024, hereinafter referred to as the Second Look Act of 2024, and SB 0291 in Maryland.

2. H.R. 10223 aims *"to enable incarcerated persons to petition a Federal court for a second look at sentences longer than 10 years, where the person is not a danger to the safety of any person or the community and has shown they are ready for reentry, and for other purposes"* (Second Look Act of 2024, retrieved from govtrack.us). Similarly, SB 0291 in Maryland provides a process for individuals serving long sentences to petition for a sentence reduction under specific circumstances.

3. At the time of this correspondence I, 1LT Nathaniel Jones possess the following qualifications:

- a. Bachelor of Arts degree,
- b. Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees,
- c. Post-baccalaureate certificate and Executive Graduate,
- d. Ph.D. Candidate,
- e. Commissioned as an Active-Duty US Army Aviator
- f. National mental Health First Aid Instructor
- g. US Army Master Resilience Trainer

4. Justification for support of SB 0291 and SB 0291 is as follows:

- a. I, 1LT Nathaniel Jones, am a product of receiving a second chance and have high confidence that reformed individuals, when offered the opportunity. Reformed individuals hold a unique perspective of reality that allows them to thrive in society through civically responsible actions that generate progressive impacts to those around.
- b. Additionally, I worked in the State of North Carolina in conjunction with the NCDHHS, NCDPS, NCDPI, juvenile justice departments, and behavioral health as a consultant regarding the Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative funded under SAMSHA during 2018 and 2019 conducting research and providing technical support for programs that encompass the principles upon which H.R. 10223 and SB 0291 are established.

- c. Currently, data cited in H.R. 10223 and SB 0291 shows that second chance programs facilitate substantial positive impacts on those given a second chance and the societies they find themselves in. I was given a second chance in 2012 after an unfortunate situation in 2007. Since 2012 I have earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, both a Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees, a post-baccalaureate certificate, and a Ph.D. Candidate, commissioned into the US Army as an Aviator.
- d. In my latter years of high school, I became entangled with a situation in which my phone was used in the commission of a crime. This caused me to become engaged in the legal system and experience ripple effects that stopped the progression of my life. I lost my first job at a movie theater and struggled to find employment. My college applications were dropped, and this forced me into a dependency on welfare and social systems. I was unable to enlist in the military when trying to support the war efforts, missed out on prom, and other quintessential American experiences. These limitations prevented me from becoming a responsible citizen and did not afford me the opportunity to achieve the potential everyone saw within me. Most of these limitations stemmed from the associated record.

5. Wherefore, I am writing in support of implementing H.R. 10223 and SB 0291 to give demonstrated rehabilitated individuals the opportunity for a Second Look, for a second chance. More specifically, regarding a man named Victor Blythe. Victor Blythe has been serving a lengthy sentence and, in my professional opinion based upon multiple interactions both in person and on the phone, displays true signs of reformation. A father, husband, and now grandfather, he understands the errors of his years as a misguided youth and has matured past the point of recidivism and criminalization, as affirmed by the Adolescent Brain Development Theory cited in H.R. 10223.

- a. Mr. Blythe has a phenomenal reputation among the corrections staff, who have confirmed willingness to draft character reference letters on his behalf, if given the opportunity to receive the chance to reintegrate to society.
- b. Mr. Blythe has successfully completed nearly every training/school available at the institution.
- c. Mr. Blythe currently leads and facilitates classes for others in the institution.
- d. Mr. Blythe serves as a mentor for several incoming younger individuals in the hopes of encouraging them to re-enter society as better individuals, passing his lessons learned and strategies for growth and development to those willing to listen.

- e. Mr. Blyth is an individual that H.R. 10223 and SB 0291 would greatly benefit, allowing his demonstrated qualities and characteristics to become positive contributions to society at large.
6. It is with great hope that this correspondence, and the effort invested in drafting it, is not in vain and does not fall on deaf ears. I bear witness, as does statistical data, that second chances are necessary, effective, and beneficial for our nation. These opportunities have fueled my passion for our nation—a passion that has generated unwavering support for our Constitution, our land, and our communities, cultivating a willingness to lay down my life to uphold the right to freedom, liberty, and justice. A freedom I hope to see reformed individuals receive the opportunity to experience as responsible citizens.
7. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at (336) 549-6410 or nathaniel.d.jones37.mil@army.mil.

Nathaniel D. Jones
1LT, MS
USAACE SGS CDO

Please note, the use of the current letterhead does not indicate DoD endorsement of the enclosed sentiments.