

Maryland Second Look Act, SB0291  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
January 30, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I, Sharon Davlin, testify in support of SB291, the Maryland Second Look Act. I submit this testimony as a longtime resident of District 43 and as a member of the Baltimore County Progressive Democrats.

The Maryland Second Look Act would create an opportunity for sentence modification for incarcerated people who have served 20 years of their sentences. Those individuals who can demonstrate their growth and rehabilitation, such that they are no longer a threat to public safety, should have the opportunity for release.

Currently incarcerated people in Maryland can only petition the Court for sentence modification within 90 days of sentencing. Maryland judges used to have the ability to review sentences and this ability was an important safety valve for extreme sentences. Unfortunately, this opportunity was eliminated with a rule change in 2004. Moreover, for more than 25 years, Maryland's parole system was not available to people serving life with parole sentences. Now, the Governor has finally been removed from the parole process. It is past time to remedy decades of extreme sentences and wrongful denials. Our current grossly overcrowded prison system is costly to taxpayers and inhumane.

I encourage you to vote favorably on SB291 the Maryland Second Look Act.