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Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2025

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chair Will Smith
Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 782– Criminal Procedure – Not Criminally Responsible Verdict – Term of Commitment

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 782 – Criminal Procedure – Not Criminally Responsible Verdict – Term of Commitment. In June of 2022, the Washington County Community suffered a tragic loss when Mark Alan Frey, Charles Edward Minnick, and Joshua Robert Wallace were gunned down and murdered at their workplace by a disgruntled and disturbed employee. The shooter fled the scene but was apprehended following a shootout with Maryland State Police Officers.

Fast forward to April of 2023. The families of the three murder victims were informed that the killer would not receive any prison time for his crimes. Instead, he was deemed not criminally responsible for his actions and would be committed to a mental health facility. In June of 2023, just one year after this horrific event, this individual was given the option to be evaluated for potential release back into our community, becoming eligible for release without serving any time in prison. He did not contest his commitment at that time. However, under current law, he is eligible to be evaluated for release again in one year.

Currently the average stay for individuals found not criminally responsible for murder in the first or second degree who have been remanded for treatment across all five psychiatric hospitals in the State of Maryland is 3,634 days. SB 782, if passed, would require the court, after a verdict of not criminally responsible for murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree to commit a defendant to a designated healthcare facility without the eligibility for discharge for a minimum of 10 years.

We are simply requesting that an individual that has committed murder in either the first or second degree would not be eligible for release so quickly. The families of the victims deserve better, and it is agonizing for them to know that the individual that murdered their loved ones may be released in as little as one year after undergoing treatment.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties