



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senate Office Building  
2 East Miller Senate Office  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support of SB181 – Correctional Services – Geriatric and Medical Parole**

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for SB181, Correctional Services - Geriatric and Medical Parole. I understand that this bill maintains public safety for our communities and ensures our State works against the norms of mass incarceration that have plagued this great nation's history.

As an elected representative of the people, we must understand that it is our obligation as public servants to look at things from a holistic perspective when making decisions that can affect an entire community of individuals. This legislation speaks to the need to have compassion. It will institute fairness into our criminal justice system as it relates to those who have been convicted of a crime but have suffered some chronically debilitating disease or terminal illness or have been rendered physically incapable of presenting danger to others.

As the State's Attorney, it is my job to ensure public safety is upheld and those who go astray of the law are held accountable. Make no mistake about it: I am all about ensuring that those convicted of crimes are held to those standards and held responsible for their actions. However, there also comes a time in a person's life when we must recognize that they no longer pose a threat to themselves or others due to their elderly age, chronic medical condition, or mental incapability.

In these cases, we must weigh the interest of public safety with that of the well-being of an individual's life, mental and physical health, and current circumstances. This bill puts guardrails in place to protect the public from actual danger by placing special conditions to be considered for parole. I believe this critically necessary legislation, which has been thoroughly researched and vetted, will make our justice system fairer and alleviate pressure on overwhelmed correctional facilities and the overextended budget. The projected savings from reduced incarceration costs and healthcare expenses could be



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

redirected to other critical areas, benefiting the state. I ask for your support and your vote for **SB181, Correctional Services - Geriatric and Medical Parole.**

Sincerely,

*Ivan J. Bates*

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Submitted By: Hassan Giordano  
Chief, External Affairs Division