

Bill: SB-291

Position: Unfavorable

Contact: Joyce Conyers

Good evening,

Thanks for taking the time to hear our side for the non-treatment of victims in Maryland. My name is Joyce Conyers. I am the mother of Willie Herman Baskerville Jr, age 23 who was assassinated by Desmond Perry in December 2001 only a couple of days after Christmas. My son, Willie, had no knowledge of Perry or that his life was endangered for merely celebrating the Christmas holiday.

I am before you today to remind you of how victims have been being treated by the state's attorney's office in Maryland, this office has placed victims in such an arduous position. That our voices have nearly been cut off without representation.

In many cases victims have been kept in the dark while murderers and other criminals that have committed unspeakable crimes get numerous hours with the States Attorney's office to plead their cases.

In my case, I found it absurd that at least two other states attorneys which had previously represented our family side in this case were denied a moment to speak on the case as well as the lead detective and chief of police. In fact, the prosecuting attorney told our victims of crime representative attorney that he had no place in the courtroom and really could not speak.

This was not only unfair to the people that are trying to live a decent life and work for a living just to be struck down by the rhetoric of the Progressive Party telling us that after a few years we should be able to cope with whatever has happened and allow these murderers to continue with their lives and to be a part of society.

Then I am left with my beautiful grandson having to look a young man in the eye and say forget the person who assassinated your father only because he spent 20 years in a prison box as a model citizen. Because this is basically what I was told to me.

Finally, we have murderers testifying in court for other murders that have been rehabilitated inside four walls for a few years. So, they should be giving 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th chances while all the while they have done one thing to a better society.

Thank you for your time and your patience. I know that you have a hard job and a hard decision. Just like law enforcement staff spend countless times away from their families so that these criminals can go to court and their pathetic cries and please for release. While victims cry fall on deaf ears. Hear us, we are here, and you need to hear us.

Finally, I pray that you get the support that is required to bring justice back to the blind eye which it was instituted.

Very Respectfully,

Joyce M Conyers