

January 8, 2025

To: Maryland Senate and House Committee

From: Kevin Briscoe #173493/401893

P.O. Box 549

Jessup, Maryland 20794

Re: Support for Second Look Act

Honorable Committees,

Thank you for looking at the Second Chance Bill, it allows a progressive look towards being at least considered in a manner of one's voice being heard after being silent for decades. The point being most persons after being incarcerated for long periods have chosen to redevelop their flawed way of thinking as well as being in control of their thoughts, feelings and behavior. Having adopted a more positive outlook allows us to value respect for others while a clearer approach to what it means to not only take responsibility for one's actions but also handling with life's obstacles without putting their pain on others.

There are no shortcuts to this process because all factors had to be considered, society, our victims, our thought process, self-reflection and a great deal more.

I don't come to any conclusion about anything until hearing all sides of the good, bad and indifferent. All sides speak from experience and pain, realizing it's the pain that keeps us from being objective or receptive.

The second look is just that, a second look, not a get out of prison free card. What may not matter to one person may to another, we don't know the positive impact it can have on the healing process of those harmed or society after hearing how much the pain others matter to us, how this persons thinking has changed and more importantly what they have to offer being a part of the living society again. Several of the issues leading one to prison were their thinking, the other lack of support. The thinking has been corrected, now what is being asked for is the support.

If society's mission was to correct one's thinking so they could properly function within society's rules and values, then at some point it was meant for that person to show and prove their value and worth.

Please consider allowing one an opportunity to live a realistic lifestyle that reflects growth and self-worth.

It's like having a death sentence not in the literal sense but picture having made some extremely poor decisions, learning from them but never allowed show how understanding those choices allowed the change that is now your view of yourself, a light remaining in darkness always that disappointment to society, family and self?
(You might as well not exist)

What has been redeveloped in most allows one to be seen in a different light, now understanding I am not the sum of my past, matured to the point that life and others matter. Which leaves one to ask the greater question, does it matter? , Did anyone care to see change? Or was that a misconception of what the justice system stands for?

On a personal note, I am still working towards greater understanding as to where all my pain came from; the difference now is I do know I am in control of my thoughts, feelings and behavior. Now having the tools to recognize and overcome negative feelings which allow me to make decisions based on logic not emotions.
Is forgiveness so far from us? Lest we forget all of the pains so many have suffered do to personal ignorance and flawed thinking. Is that not what we all have been fighting against? We are standing tall not because of anything we've done but because our minds are correct and we are now able to be counted (as humans), allow us to be counted.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Briscoe

Heal My Heart

I wake up in the morning just to pray, I give thanks to see another day, but no matter how hard I try the pain of my past just won't go away.

The Lord helped me realize only time can heal certain pain, please Father hear me when I am Praising your Holy Name.

I use to see life through different eyes, but loving Jesus brings to mind that he is that Greater Love and Greater Peace that lets us all know a better day is on the way.

Father please Heal My Heart and Ease My Pain, give me the Strength to Love again. Heal My Heart and Ease My Pain, give me Hope to Trust again, give me the Strength to Live and to Trust so I can Love now that I now know how.

Only Jesus can Ease Our Pain as he uses his Word to make things simple and plain, to teach us the ways of Love to ensure his message is heard by all.

Learning more about what plan the Lord has for me helped me turn over a new leaf, I am determined to live a better way, that is if I have an opportunity someday.

I'd feel much better if the past would go away, but then how would one see all of the examples Christ left for you and me to show us the way, the pain we've caused ourselves and others teach us the values of what we can't always see.

Those examples show us there are something's in lives we must change, choosing what is right because that is how we gain our insight.

To give thanks in all things as we often don't see the beauty in pain, but it's the pain that brings the much needed change which later keeps us going in the direction this simple but not always plain.

There is no Greater Love or Peace than Living for the Lord
(No Matter How Hard)

Heal My Heart and Ease Your Pain we all suffer to reveal what's plain.

Kevin Briscoe

Testimony / Lifer / MCI-J

I am 67 years old and I have been incarcerated since the age of 28.

As a younger man I was heavily involved in using illicit drugs and alcohol and didn't realize the destruction I was causing to so many people by leading such a destructive life. The end result of this foolish behavior was I took the life of another human being by driving my automobile under the influence of a hallucinogenic drug.

After this tragic event occurred and sobering up in prison that I finally realized the pain and suffering I caused, not only to the victim and his family, I nearly destroyed my family as well. At this point there was nothing I could do other than change my behavior/thinking. I was in prison serving a Life Sentence due to my insanity and realized that I was the only one who could change me so I started on a life time journey of rehabilitating myself.

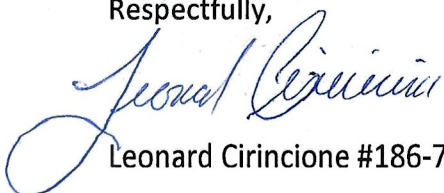
Throughout the decades I've spent in prison I've worked diligently on changing my negative ways. The first step was to get involved in 12 step programs (AA-NA) second step was to educate myself. I enrolled in the College Program and decided to major in Applied Psychology w/a concentration in Drug and Alcohol Addictions. My rationale for choosing Applied Psychology as a major was to get a handle on myself and apply the tools that I learned to heal myself and possibly be a role model and help others in their struggle.

Throughout the years I also got involved in many other institutional programs and worked full time with Maryland Correctional Enterprises. Now almost 40 years later I am still involved in 12 step programs and working for Maryland Correctional Enterprises.

I feel the Maryland Second Chance Act would be very beneficial not only for myself and many other men who like myself worked diligently on correcting their negative ways that lead them to prison. Not only have we corrected our negative behavior, we can now be role models to the younger generation who are headed in the same direction that we did. We can be a big part of stopping the madness that is occurring with our youth.

There is a lot more to say but I will conclude this testimony for now.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonard Cirincione". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Leonard Cirincione #186-738

1-13-25

To: House & Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Marvin Crossell, I am serving Life sentence in the Maryland Penal System and I support this Second Look Bill.

First, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read why it is important for the passing of a Second Look Bill. I can imagine that it may be difficult for you to consider giving individuals who are incarcerated a second chance with all the chaotic things that are going on in our society today. I believe though that we all have to remain hopeful and vigilant if we are to induce positive changes in both individual's, and our society. The Former President, Barack Obama once said something that resonated with me when he came into office; he stated at a very chaotic time in our country and world's history, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." For me, that included everyone from every walk of life. It does not matter what color you are, what your beliefs are, if you are rich or poor, or have made bad decisions in your life. That call went out to everyone, it still does!

I believe the Second Chance Bill matters because it gives an individual like me: incarcerated at age 19, no priors, time served – 45 years a chance to change the narrative of his or her life. Now none of us can undo the crimes we have committed, nor can we undo the poor choices we have made in the past. However, many of us have grown and changed from the young, misguided, uneducated and lost individuals we were. A second chance matters because with it comes the opportunity for new beginnings, to be a better person and it gives us the chance to help rebuild the communities we shared a part in there deterioration. Moreover, there are still a great number of things that could attest to why a second chance matters, but I will end with this. When many of us who have served 30 plus years where sentenced, we had 90 days in which to file for a modification of sentence and within a year we would have a hearing. The thing is, within that time none of us had the opportunity to grow, to transform our lives or learn from the bad choices we had made. In fact, I did not fully understand the extent of my actions, how those choices affected my victim, their family, the community and even my own family, as

well as my own life. Today the laws are changed and the courts are not permitted to even consider modifying anyone's sentence after 5 years of being sentenced; even if it is warranted where an individual has shown through their institutional record that they have transformed their lives through self-reflection, education, self-help and cognitive groups. On a personal note, it took some time for me to truly realize the crimes that I committed but I came to the place where I did and it was at that point that I made a choice to change. I felt like I owed it to my victim, to a whole community that lived in fear for a time, to a woman who raised me with good morals and values, and I owed to myself to change. So in an environment that was inundated with violence, chaos, drugs and alcohol. One that was limited and less than ideal, I began to take the steps that I believed would promote growth and change in my life. I began to get active in self-help groups that really taught me about being less self-centered, doing for and giving to others. I enrolled in school, obtained a G.E.D., and then went on to be the first and only person in my family of six sisters and four brothers to obtain a college degree (B.S. in Management Science). I also became active in mentoring groups that were geared towards at risk youth from all over the state of Maryland. In addition, by the grace of God Who transformed my heart, I no longer use drugs or drink alcohol, and my life has meaning and purpose.

In closing, please know that behind these walls and fences are some very talented and gifted individuals. It is unfortunate that many of us had to come to prison to discover our purpose in life, or that we even possessed gifts and talents that could possibly provide for our families and ourselves or to share with the world; but such is the case. Now we are armed with wisdom, education and other tools to help us better navigate out in society today. I am not proud of my actions and unfortunately, I can never take back or undo the things I have done and that is something that I will have to live with for the rest of my life. Though I am not the victim in this matter, I have paid a great price, I believe I have put in the work to transform my life and I am asking to be given the opportunity to, at the very least, be given consideration for a second chance. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Marvin Crossell