



Bill Title: HB 853 Criminal Procedure - Petition to Reduce Sentence (Maryland Second Look Act)

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Kurt Stand, Progressive Maryland Member

Date: February 18, 2025

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I, Kurt Stand, am testifying in support of HB853, the Maryland Second Look Act. I am submitting this testimony as a returning citizen who spent 15 years in federal prison. Since coming home in 2012 I have lived in Prince George's currently in Greenbelt. I am a member of Progressive Maryland.

While in prison, I lived with and interacted daily with many people who had already served 20 or more years, often with a decade or two yet to go before release. Many looked back upon their past with regret, many simply had thoughts and hopes of getting a new chance – a second chance – at life. Others, with the passage of time, were ill or disabled. Very few could remotely have been considered a danger to society.

Beyond that, many have much to offer. In my activities in the community since my release, I have met and interacted with others who were previously incarcerated who are now giving back to the community. Sometimes that takes the form of community activism, speaking to young people, helping other folks get back on their feet. Sometimes it takes the form of healing within their families or neighborhood. Sometimes it simply means finding a job, doing it well, paying taxes, being part of the community. In all these cases, continued incarceration serves no useful purpose from the standpoint of public safety, public resources. Or, to me, most important, it serves no useful purpose from the standpoint of morality.

Passage of the Maryland Second Look Act would create a meaningful opportunity for sentence modification for so many locked up who deserve a second chance after 20 plus years of incarceration. That does not mean an automatic release, but rather the possibility of one. That means more than words can say – not only to the individuals who might apply for a reduction, but to their loved ones as well.



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For these reasons, I encourage you to vote **favorably** on the **Maryland Second Look Act HB853**.

Thank you.

Kurt Stand

Greenbelt, MD