

## **TESTIMONY ON HB374**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**February 4, 2025**

### **UNFAVORABLE**

Submitted by: Magdalena Tsiongas

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Barlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

**I, Magdalena Tsiongas, oppose HB374 as written, and ask for an unfavorable report.**

HB374 is a further punitive approach to an already punitive system. While diminution credits likely have a minimal impact on the release date for those serving life sentences for first degree murder, they provide some sense of progress and goal setting for those serving these sentences. Having your good conduct, work tasks and educational programming contribute to diminution credits is not the only reason why people who are incarcerated participate in these programs, but it does provide a small reward for that participation.

For those serving time for first degree murder, they will already be sentenced to either a life with or life without parole sentence. Those with life without parole sentences cannot accrue diminution credits already. Those with a life with the possibility of parole sentence have diminution credits tabulated manually, but no release date is calculated, as they do not have a set release date. So in order to be released, they will still need to be granted parole by the parole board, where their ability, or not, to return safely to the community will be determined.

Please resist further punitive laws that do not serve a public safety purpose, and vote UNFAVORABLE for HB374.

Thank you.