

**TESTIMONY ON HB853  
MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT**

**House Judiciary Committee  
February 18, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

Submitted by: **Ann Duncan**  
**Executive Director, Goucher Prison Education Partnership**

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

**I, Ann Duncan, am testifying in support of HB853, the Maryland Second Look Act.** I am submitting this testimony as the Executive Director of the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP) which enrolls approximately 130 incarcerated individuals at two Maryland state prisons, many of whom would be directly impacted by this act.

Passage of the Maryland Second Look Act would create a meaningful opportunity for sentence modification for incarcerated people after having served 20 years of their sentence. I firmly believe that those individuals who are able to demonstrate their growth and rehabilitation, such that they are no longer a threat to public safety, should have the opportunity for release.

As Director of GPEP and as a professor in the partnership, I see first hand every day that rehabilitation is possible and that many of the individuals who are currently incarcerated and still face long sentences are ready to return home, ready to make a positive impact on their community and have no way to do so. As a US historian, I know that our parole system and our judicial system have extreme racial disparities and historical injustices that continue in the sentences of current incarcerated people and that our criminal justice system does not often reward or recognize progress, restitution and restoration. The second chance act provides that possibility.

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

Thank you.