

Bill: HB-853

Position: Unfavorable

Contact: Angela Fulton

Warren Steven Slayman.....that is the name of my deceased brother. Murdered by someone that thought he was gay. Before I said my name, I wanted you to hear his. I wish I could put an image with the name. The image that pops into my head every time a bill gets introduced to lessen the sentence of a criminal is that of my brother laying in a culvert slowing succumbing to the three fatal gunshot wounds to his chest and head. Laying there for hours clinging to life, most likely hoping and praying to be found. When will the lawmakers in the state of Maryland start to pay attention to victim's rights? My thought is never. By the looks of the last several weeks that two different bills have been trying to go through, one in the Senate and now this one in the house. I wholeheartedly oppose HB853! What is the point of parole hearings if you're going to keep trying to lessen sentences other ways? My name is Angela Fulton. 31 years, that is how long ago my brother Stevie was murdered. It seems like yesterday to my sister Gretchen Bridendolph and I. If this bill were to pass not only will we have to relive the most horrific time in our life but our faith in the lawmakers and the justice system will be forever lost. As I stated above the day he was murdered he was shot three times once in the chest and two times in the head and left in a culvert for dead. I ask you, will my brother get a second chance at life? Will you give him a second look and a chance? I can answer my own question, and most likely the answer would be no. The problem is none of you or maybe some, which I doubt, have experienced the loss of a loved one due to murder. It's not the same as someone dying of cancer and it definitely is not the same as somebody getting old and dying in nursing home or just dying of natural causes. The image of them is continuously in your head forever even though you want to remember them the way they used to be the image is of what you imagined they look like when they were murdered. I personally never saw the crime scene photos and was told that I don't ever want to see that. But I wish you all would have to. Maybe if you had first hand account of what we had to go through you would think differently about wanting to lessen the sentence of these criminals. We have had to go to parole hearings, modification hearings, post conviction hearings. And now you want to try to add another hearing on top of all of that and possibly trying to pass the second look act as well. I don't quite understand why this continues. This is the absolute worst torture I have ever been through next to losing my brother to murder. I promised my parents before they passed that I would always fight for Stevie and victims like him. So I am here to tell you.....you haven't heard the last from me. Murder victims families matter. Our sanity and faith in justice matters! Please do not go forward with HB 853!!!! Thank you.