



Justice's S.A.K.E.
SUPPORTING ALL KIDS ENDLESSLY

Dear members of the Senate Judicial Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Richard Myers, and I am here on behalf of Justice's SAKE today in strong support of this bill addressing post-conviction release for individuals whose crimes resulted in the death of a young victim.

When a child is taken by violent crime, the loss is permanent. There is no second chance for that young life. Yet for many families, the justice they believed was final is reopened again and again through repeated post-conviction petitions and requests for release. Each of these proceedings forces families to relive the worst moment of their lives. It retraumatizes them, destabilizes their healing, and leaves them fearing that the justice they were promised could be undone.

This bill recognizes a fundamental truth: **when the victim is a child, the harm is irreversible, and our laws must reflect the weight of that loss.** By limiting post-conviction release opportunities in these specific and devastating cases, this legislation helps protect families from ongoing trauma and preserves the integrity of the original sentence.

Importantly, this bill does *not* take away anyone's constitutional rights. Defendants already receive full due process, full appeals, and full access to required post-conviction procedures. What this bill does is ensure finality in cases where a young life was ended and the consequences of that crime cannot be undone.

Passing this bill would affirm that Maryland's justice system values the safety of our children, supports victims' families, and stands by the sentences imposed for the most serious and irreversible crimes.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation House Bill SB0640 and help ensure that no family who has lost a child to violent crime must continually relive their trauma through repeated release hearings.



