

Project Emancipation Now

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Dear Legislators:

I respectfully submit this testimony for the official record to express my support for HB 759. I am 65 years of age and a former incarcerated individual. I was released from incarceration on September 24, 2024 after serving 42 years and 33 days in confinement. I did not have the opportunity to benefit from Second Look legislation. Nevertheless, I was paroled to freedom.

During my incarceration I took advantage of every opportunity to become the man I am today. I created many programs, including PEN (Project Emancipation Now) that has emancipated more men from gangs than any other entity in the state of Maryland.

My 42 years in confinement has given me the experience of meeting many men that deserve a second chance. Therefore, I am asking you to support HB 759. Many of the men that are returning to the community after serving decades in prison have become effective violence interrupters. They have been instrumental in reducing Baltimore's homicide numbers.

My written testimony is short—only because you know the intricacies of HB 759. Please pass this important legislation. It will help repair families, make our communities safer, and make Maryland the icon of Second Chances for all of its citizens.

Sincerely,
Craig Muhammad