

Testimony in Support of **House Bill 759 / Senate Bill 162**

Darryl Green

February 13, 2026

Judiciary Committee

Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Darryl Green. I am a Maryland resident and the President and Principal Consultant of Deep Forgiveness. I write to express my **SUPPORT for House Bill 759 / Senate Bill 162**.

I write to you as someone who has firsthand experienced the pain that youth can cause and also as someone who has experienced the powerful healing of forgiveness when children are given second chances. In 1998, a 15-year-old boy stabbed my younger brother to death during an argument over a pair of tennis shoes. It was a senseless crime that took the life of someone whom I loved dearly. The teenager responsible for my brother's death was charged with murder in the adult system and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

For two and a half decades, he served time with no possibility of returning home — and for two and a half decades, I was in my own prison, a prison of hatred and anger. After 25 years, I realized that the only way for me to heal was to forgive him and move forward with my life. In 2013, this child — who had since grown into a man — had an opportunity to appear before a judge in a resentencing hearing. It was in that courtroom that I heard him read a letter apologizing to my family and shared how sorry and remorseful he was for his actions that had caused my family so much pain.

I supported him in that court room, recommending that he be released. We shook hands, both of us crying, and I told him “You’ve been known for taking a life, now let’s go save some lives together.” Three weeks after I testified in favor of his release, he came to visit me at the Christopher Place Employment Academy where I worked. He, his mother, his aunt and I cried and prayed together on the front steps. We built a relationship that has continued to today, and we started Deep Forgiveness, a Baltimore-based organization where we spread the power of forgiveness, host workshops and trainings, and host a mentoring program for youth.

Healing after my brother's death did not come overnight, but instead arrived slowly over time when I opened my heart to the possibility of forgiveness. It made me realize that we cannot afford to give up on children. Yes, we must hold them accountable, but we also need judges to review their sentences to see who they have become. For this reason, I enthusiastically supported the passage of the Juvenile Restoration Act. It's only natural that all Maryland children under 18 should have this opportunity, regardless of the date on which they were sentenced. To do otherwise is profoundly unjust, and prevents both youthful offenders and survivors in their cases from the opportunity to build a healing relationship such as I have.

I ask the committee to favorably report **House Bill 759 / Senate Bill 162**.