



The **CAMPAIGN** for the  
**FAIR SENTENCING**  
of **YOUTH**

TITLE: Juvenile Restoration Act

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This legislation will bring Maryland in line with recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings and twenty four other states and jurisdictions, including Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, that have passed similar legislation abolishing life without the possibility of parole for children.

The legislation accomplishes the following:

- 1) Abolishes the sentence of Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP).
- 2) Permits a person who was convicted of a crime committed while the person was a minor to file a motion for a sentence reduction. Following a judicial hearing, the court may reduce the sentence if the person has been imprisoned for at least 20 years, is not a danger to the public, and the interests of justice are served by a sentence reduction.
- 3) Requires the reviewing court to consider the particular characteristics of youth in accord with *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012), when determining whether to grant a sentence reduction to a person who was a child at the time the crime was committed.

The Juvenile Restoration Act is based on the beliefs that no child is born bad, no child is beyond the hope of redemption, and no child should ever be told that they have no future but to die in prison. It balances the needs for age-appropriate accountability and public safety with the fundamental truth that people, especially children, are capable of profound positive transformation. When a person is able to demonstrate rehabilitation, we must give them an opportunity for a second chance. This legislation takes an important step toward constitutional compliance for youth convicted of serious crimes by abolishing life without parole, providing meaningful opportunities for judicial review after serving a term of years, and setting forth the factors particular to youth that courts must consider at the review hearing.