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Testimony in support of HB 409  
Juvenile Restoration Act  
House Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon Chairman Luke Clippenger, Vice Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and members of the House Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony for House Bill 409. My name is Adrian Citroni. I'm a life long citizen of the State of Maryland and a long time resident of Catonsville Maryland.

My daughter was 14 when her life took an unexpected detour as she watched her mother suffer and perish from pancreatic cancer. Soon after her mom passed, she spiraled down and into the criminal justice system in 1993. For the next 27 years she has undergone a Metamorphosis. She entered the (MCIW) CJ system as an unsuccessful high school graduate. Today she has progressed thru a GED program, has obtained a Certificate of Human Services at CCBC (30 Credit hours), and taken many courses at Anne Arundel Community College earning the equivalent of an AA degree and is currently taking courses thru Goucher College.

A three day relationship with a very disturbed 19 year old led to her sentence of life imprisonment when she was 17. She has served 27 years. Despite the strong support for her release from the prosecutor in her case, a stellar prison record, and a near unanimous vote of the MPC in favor of her parole, the Governor turned her down for parole last August. Without this legislation, she may stay in prison for the rest of her life, a result not intended or expected when she was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole in 1995.

So as to not take undue time, I am presenting her experiences as Bullet Points. As you read her experiences and reflect on her accomplishments. I am sure you will conclude that there was a metamorphosis. She is not the same little girl who entered the CJ System. She entered as a grieving juvenile - heartbroken, emotionally crushed, motherless, and a very lost 17 year old. Today she is a fully functioning Woman. In spite of her present conditions, she is a Lady who has earned and deserves a second chance. I implore you to consider that life is too precious to cast it away or throw anyone away. And also too expensive for the state to fund. Ladies and gentlemen who have come this far deserve an opportunity for redemption. Please, become an agent of this change. A judge will decide the merits of the request, just give them the opportunity. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. And people who have come this far, need that second chance for redemption. Do It.

**Her employment experiences at MCIW and also Patuxent include:**

- Teachers Aide
- Cook
- Storeroom Clerk
- Office Clerk
- Commissary Duties

**at MCE - Maryland Correctional Enterprises (her longest term position where she has constantly received stellar reviews and recommendations. ), she worked in:**

- AIDS administration
- Bulk Mailing
- Sign Plant

### **GROUP INVOLVEMENT**

- W.O.R.D. - program to unite children with their mothers to create special memories
- I.W.I.S.H. - program to connect with other inmates in the same situation
- W.H.O. - Women Helping Others which she co-founded - promotes self esteem and give back
- P.U.S.H. - an out reach program for at-risk youths
- Mentoring Program: Partners newcomers with trustworthy inmates - Buddy System
- Kairos: Roman Catholic Retreat Program which she now volunteers to facilitate
- Recreation Committee: She organized events: Volleyball, Basketball, Movies
- Tutoring Committee: Organized schedules for students needing help for GED
- Documentary Committee: Co-Founded to show documentaries each month for diversity

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

- Book Club
- Writers Club
- Drawing Club

### **Personal Achievements since Incarceration**

- Self-Taught Arabic
- Self-Taught Guitar
- Taught Guitar to others
- Organized Weekly Game Nights - Trivia & Jeopardy - team competition
- Organized Monthly Bingo Nites
- Pilates - Created and instructed 1 hour workout classes
- Organized Secret Santa gift giving for the ladies
- Organized Biggest Loser weight loss competitions
- Organized Talent Shows for the youth population at Patuxent to promote self expression

### **Recent Accomplishments**

- Bee Keeper Program
- Cat Program