

February 7, 2024

Dear Judicial Committee;

We are Carla and Ed Morrow, the proud parents of five children. We have been residents of Anne Arundel County for over 50 years, and we support HB319.

Our children were born and raised in Pasadena Md. graduated high school, attended college and have bought homes here. We raised our family to be productive and law-abiding citizens.

On October 13, 2012, six repeat offenders that had been on a crime spree, in a stolen SUV, drove down the road shot multiple bullets killing our Matthew and injuring another while standing in his friends front yard.

This began our journey of pain and grief as well as the shocking experience with the judiciary system.

While our son lay dying in the yard these criminals went to a Royal Farm only a few blocks away to buy snacks as if just another day of their crime filled life. They then went to hide out at one of the criminals' homes and were caught the next day.

We would then learn that all six were repeat criminals starting within their juvenile years, some still had open cases waiting to be heard but continued to be postponed etc. These crimes ranged from theft, carjacking, robbery, drugs, gun violations and now the murder of our son Matthew. Prior to our son's murder there was never any accountability for their crimes therefore, enabling them to continue to as they would brag on social media "we been beating this system since 09" and "we don't talk we walk". It worked for them but now our family will forever have to pay the price and live this new life that we have been given. Not by our choice and never would I ever want anyone to endure such heartache with the loss of their child.

We have attended over 100+ court cases involving these six criminals and still as of today committing crimes. Only two by the Grace of God have been convicted with sentences! We have sat and watched how the laws here in the state of Maryland seem to protect the criminals more so than the victims. We here this every morning on the news, 11 yrs. later and it has only gotten worse! Parents who have lost loved ones saying the same thing HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN IF THEY WERE ONLY HELD ACCOUNTIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS OUR CHILDREN WOULD BE HERE TODAY. OUR MATTHEW WOULD BE HERE TODAY. We

would not have been given a death sentence. We miss him with every breath we take and will forever!
We will continue to try and see that no other family will have to endure such pain.

How is it possible that any human being/parent of a child can think it is ok to take the life of another innocent person and not be held accountable for their actions? Even to take what is not there's and know that they will not be held accountable? HOW are things EVER going to get better if there are no consequences for doing wrong. We need to start by making a change. Innocent people should not have to fight the law to be protected. By passing this bill we think it would be a step in the right direction for all victims. Criminals need to be held accountable for their crimes or it will just continue. Stop and think what would you do if it was your loved one?

Sincerely and Brokenhearted

Carla and Ed Morrow

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