

The Honorable _____
Maryland House of Representatives
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear _____

This letter requests that the House Judiciary Committee rule favorably on House Bill 790 which limits the number of diminution credits to ten days per month for violent offenders. As a resident of the State of Maryland, I believe it is unacceptable that violent felons can accrue diminution credits at a rate of 15 days per month, thereby, possibly reducing their sentence by half.

It is important to note that violent offenders are currently required to serve a mere fifty percent of their sentence before being eligible for parole. HB 790 does not change this. Violent offenders will still be eligible for release by the Maryland Parole Commission after serving only fifty percent of their sentence but at least this requires the offender to appear before the Parole board who can assess the inmate's readiness to return to the community.

By passing HB 790, our most violent criminals will still be eligible for mandatory release after serving only 66% of their sentence. This is a small step forward in protecting our residents.

The fiscal burden of this bill will be negligible compared to the burden placed upon our citizens by having these violent criminals in our communities. **Please**, start caring more about the law-abiding citizens of our great state rather than those convicted of these horrendous crimes.

Please rule favorable on House Bill 790.

Regards,