



Deep Forgiveness
My Story. Our Story. God's Story.

DARRYL C. GREEN 701 DEVONSHIRE RD. BALTIMORE, MD 21229

December 14, 2020

Re: Testimony In Support of SB 256

Regards Sentence Offenders under 18 When Committed Offense

House Criminal Justice Committee.

Dear Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee:

Greeting, my name is Darryl Green, President and Principal Consultant of Deep Forgiveness. At Deep Forgiveness our mission is to analyze the impact of forgiveness, encourage conversation and the healing power thereof; we strive to restore wholeness and a spirit of reconciliation as we embody the true meaning of forgiveness.

In 1988, my younger brother was stabbed to death over a pair of tennis shoes. After this I was able to find peace when I found forgiveness. Twenty-five years later, I was working as the program director at Christopher Place Employment Academy when I testified to get the murderer's life sentence reduced. We now work together in hopes of making a difference for others in sharing my lessons learned and listening to their stories.

Overtime I realized this kid, who murdered my brother was only 15 years old. I understand the importance of accountability and he was held accountable. But at 15 he couldn't even clean his own room but he made a huge decision that would affect the rest of his life. I talk to him all the time now and he told me it took three seconds of rage that changed the course of his life forever. Forgiveness is not really about the other person, it is about you.

Although not easy, forgiveness is the only path towards freedom and hope which allows us to experience God's agape love. Our community youth, now aging men in prison, were convicted of crimes that carry the longest sentences due to outdated tough-on-crime tactics. People view these men as irredeemable. But they are human beings - and over the decades - completely different human beings than who they were when they committed their crime. They deserve a chance to live as free men once again - they have learned from their mistakes and grown as human beings from them.

They have more than served their time and it is imperative we recognize that they have matured from the angry young boys they once were. Deep Forgiveness and I are in full support SB 256, So **Please Vote Yes on SB 256.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darryl C. Green

President and Principal Consultant