



## Second Look Act of 2019

- Enables criminals who have been sentenced to ten or more years in prison to petition for a “second look” by a federal court
- Applies to criminals who are not a danger to the safety of any person or the community and/or are ready for re-entry by the correctional facility
- Council-provided evidence, federal reports, and various factors regarding the defendant will be considered in order to determine the most equitable solution
- Several factors that determine whether to modify a term of imprisonment or not, including the following:
  - Report from the Bureau of Prisons & the U.S. attorney
  - Defendant’s demonstration of maturity & rehabilitation
  - Any statement by the victim of the offense
  - Reports from mental, physical, or psychiatric examinations

## MAP’s Perspective on H.R. 3795

**MAP supports this bill** because we believe it works to successfully account for unfair criminal sentence practices. MAP students understand that it is common for defendants with low socioeconomic status and few resources to have a difficult time accurately representing and defending their case. We also understand that life in prison is a life without the ability to pursue one’s passions, spend uninhibited time with loved ones, and cultivate a successful career or family life. As such, we strongly support H.R. 3795 which would allow inmates, especially those who were tried unfairly or have strong arguments for their defense that were not properly acknowledged in their original trial, to receive a second look at the sentence they were given. We support a second look, and a possible second chance at a free and meaningful life.

## Youth Perspective

From the perspective of high school students, the Second Look Act is a valuable piece of legislation as it has the potential to reduce prison sentences for inmates, especially juveniles. As youth, we understand that our time is precious. The possibility of spending the next ten, twenty, or thirty years in jail without any chance for a reevaluation of a sentence is inhumane. Our lives would pass us by—we high school students would be in our late thirties after a twenty year sentence, all of our childhoods and youthful time gone with one sentence. In sum, we, as youth, support this bill because it can allow for sentence reductions that allow inmates to go back to their families, communities, and normal lives sooner.

## Catholic Perspective

The Catholic perspective upholds the belief that criminals should not be separated from their families for long periods of time. Emphasis on contrition and that imprisonment is unnecessary when people are imprisoned after they experience regret and express a change of heart for a considerable length of time. Criminals should be judged based on how they impact their victims. This Catholic perspective on crime and the criminal justice reform relates to the Second Look Act of 2019, as people should not be in prison if they have mended their ways and respect others’ rights. In other words, if criminals show no signs of or are not detrimentally impacting communities, there is no reason that they should be placed in prison.

