**Sample letter** to Maryland State Senators and Delegates in support of the Juvenile Restoration Act - MD HB409

Dear Senator/Delegate,

Please support the Juvenile Restoration Act, MD HB409.

No child in Maryland should be sentenced to die in prison. This bill would abolish the sentence of Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP). The bill also inserts a 20-year judicial review into the life sentences of those currently serving life sentences for crimes committed as minors.

Approximately 2,800 people in the United States have been sentenced to life without parole for crimes they committed as children. Momentum to abolish extreme sentences for youth is sweeping the country. Maryland should join the effort to eliminate unfair sentencing based on flawed research from the 90’s and implicit biases in our systems. New research on brain development and our increased awareness of systemic racial injustice urge us to re-examine our practices.

Please help Maryland balance the need for age-appropriate accountability and public safety with the fundamental truth that people, especially children, are capable of profound positive transformation. Everyone deserves a second chance – especially Maryland’s children.

Sincerely,