

07/29/2020 Joint Committee Meeting of Courts of Justice and Public Safety Committees

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Residence	Topic of Interest	Written Feedback
Jennay	Shanklin		Colonial beach	Earned Good Time bill	I feel the Earned Good Time bill needs to be passed because as Delegate Mullin said, 4.5 days a month is nothing. If they demonstrate they can follow rules and program, let them out.
Randy	Fleitman		Fairfax	Police and justice reform	I support the proposed reforms in policing aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in police forces. In addition to body cameras, agreements among jurisdictions to use outside prosecutors, registries of abusive officers, and civilian oversight boards with subpoena power, I understand that contracts with police unions often frustrate police chief's efforts to remove officers who don't follow mandated procedures to minimize violent confrontations and use of lethal or even non-lethal force. I urge that the legislature pass a law that bans arbitration clauses and other contract mechanisms that sometimes prevent police chiefs from firing such officers. It should be clear now in all municipalities and counties making cost/benefit and risk analyses that the cost of a police abuse anywhere is an cost everywhere. Yes, this will put police officers at risk of arbitrary, personalized, or politicized firings, but that is the point of the body cameras and increased transparency. Such a reform should still enable the use of other protection mechanisms for unfairly victimized officers.
Lindsey	Dunivan		Augusta	Earned Sentence Credit	I fully support this bill
Ashley	Cox	Humanization project	KANSAS CITY	Earned sentence credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration,my fiance is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Janet	Walton		COVINGTON	Criminal Justice Reform	Increase good time towards time served to 65%
Jennifer	Vance		Russell, Cleveland	Earn sentences credit	I support the Earn Sentence Credit please consider it during this special session
Diane	Rhodes		Burke, VA	assult on police officers	We need to protect our police officers as much as humanly possible. The assaults on police officers is terrible. They have chosen to protect the public and the public should do everything to keep them safe by putting thugs and criminal in jail. Thugs should be made responsible for their crimes. We need the police and therefore funding should not be reduced. I don't want a mental health professional to come when a thug is breaking into my house. Why have two crimes in a dangerous situation when a policeman is trained to deal with violent, drugged thugs. Diane Rhodes, senior citizen
Laura	Jackson		Mineral, VA	Earned Sentence Credit HB1532	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within the legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counterproductive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband was accused of a violent crime at a very young age (21), but has worked hard to be a good person, achieve personal and educational growth during their time behind bars and wishes to come home and be a productive member of society. He has almost grown children, step-children and disabled brother who need him now more than ever! He deserves a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Ann	Turner		Albemarle	Mandatory minimums	I am opposed to changing the mandatory minimums.
Suzanne	collins	Humanilization	dillwyn	Earned credit	My fiance is at Dillwyn correctional center. He is a level 1 inmate since day one. He has a family at home, an awaiting job and a home plan. We support Don Scott and others for the good time credits to be put into Affect. Please support us and let our loved ones earn more good time credits
Debra	Turner	Restore Justice in VA	Rockingham County	Expansion of Earned Sentencing "Good Time" Credits for ALL	Despite no previous convictions or jail time, our son received a 10 year sentence in Rockingham Co 2 years ago. He has been a model prisoner with no charges. He has a BA Degree from Colorado State University and would be an ideal candidate for the Good Time Credits Bill expansion for ALL. There are others like him. Please consider the loss to society of these people who would benefit from the opportunity to EARN their way to an earlier release. Thank you.
Richard	Firth		Mechanicsville	Reducing penalties for crimes and police authority	We must no diminish our police as the Demoncrats so desparately want. We must have adequate police to enforce existing law and not to reduce penalties or release prisoners who have committed serious crimes. If these problems are not corrected anarchy will result which has been too frequently the case seen in too many cities across America. WE MUST HAVE LAW AND ORDER AND RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW IN THIS SRTATE AND NATION. It is my understanding that you are considering legislation to remove law enforcement from schools, cut police budgets, and abolish mandatory minimums. Apparently one Democratic state senator also continues to fight to decrease penalties for those who assault police officers. I implore you to use common sense in these matters. The legislation you are considering is devoid of common sense. You are considering mob rule. The logical extreme of this legislation is the collapse of our society, maybe not in the very near future, but for sure within a few years. I am appalled that you are even considering such legislation. Don't let the actions of a minority of police officers rob you of your reason. Surely you don't want your children to live in a world where lawlessness and anarchy are the rule. That's where this society is going... Please, I implore you to take a hard look at the long term consequences of your proposed legislation. Thank you -- Karen McDowell
Karen	McDowell	none	Albemarle County	Please do not reduce police funding	

				<p>To whom it may concern: Please do not remove law enforcement from schools or cut police budgets. Please do not remove mandatory minimums for assaults on police officers . We need good police officers to protect our society . Without order and self rule, we open our selves up to tyranny.</p> <p>The lesson of history - its happened many times - is that chaos leads to tyranny. Chaos can only be tolerated for so long by a society. Then fear and longing for security and protection opens the door to a person or group to impose order. Be aware that Hitler did not seize power; he was elected into office. The anarchy of the Weimar Republic became intolerable to the German people and they became willing to trade their freedoms for security.</p> <p>The democracy designed by our Founders and practiced for over 200 years in the United States is not what many people today think democracy is - that people are free to do anything they want and without consequences. The true democracy envisioned by the Founders sought to find a balance between Order and Freedom. We need excellent police officers to be funded and protected.</p>
Holly	Hood		Chesterfield	
				<p>The major function of government is to maintain law and order in the community. It must create institutions to carry out the will of the people to protect themselves from each other and maintain order in natural crises. The alternative is vigilante justice, anarchy, and domestic terrorism. Law and Order organizations must be given by the legislature the necessary tools which include weapons, material, physical techniques, training, and vehicles to exceed those available to opponents of law and order, especially those who are organized and funded by international and domestic sources aimed for violence and disruption of orderly constitutional processes for change. Failure of the legislature to maintain such discipline in carrying out their duties will result in further civil strife, violence, and rule of force as the whole of society takes up arms and rebels. Minimize actions to disarm police powers!!</p>
max	beyer		Roanoke	Police Reform
Karen	Andrewlavage		Norfolk	Mandatory minimum sentences
				<p>My husband is a retired police officer who served 32 years in Norfolk, VA. Over the years, I have observed the fringe of society change from "respect for the uniform" to disrespect and violence. There was a time when anyone who attacked/injured/killed a police officer knew there would be severe consequences. Laws and judges became lenient. Offenders became more brazen and violent upon seeing that they could return to the streets with perhaps a hand slap for such offenses. Their attacks on police officers became a badge of honor. We must keep mandatory jail sentences for serious offenses such as murder/assault of a police officer, assault with a weapon of a teacher, rape of a child.</p>
Cindy	Stackhouse	na	NOKESVILLE	Assault on Police
Elizabeth	Reams		Botetourt	
				<p>Please do not lessen sentences on assault of police...that is an invitation to crime. The people who risk their lives for others are being attacked verbally and physically every day. We run the risk of losing our police force and not getting new people to enter law enforcement. Who will be left to respond when YOU have an emergency? We must live by law and order. People committing crimes must be made examples to deter crime. Please do not lessen sentences and please do not reduce any police budgets Keep Virginia safe. I am in full support of Good Time Earned Credits for ALL offenders.</p>
				<p>This is the age of the plea bargain. Most people adjudicated in the criminal-justice system today waive the right to a trial and the host of protections that go along with one, including the right to appeal. Instead, they plead guilty. The vast majority of felony convictions are now the result of plea bargains—some 94 percent at the state level, and some 97 percent at the federal level. Estimates for misdemeanor convictions run even higher. These are astonishing statistics, and they reveal a stark new truth about the American criminal-justice system: Very few cases go to trial. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy acknowledged this reality in 2012, writing for the majority in Missouri v. Frye, a case that helped establish the right to competent counsel for defendants who are offered a plea bargain. Quoting a law-review article, Kennedy wrote, “Horse trading [between prosecutor and defense counsel] determines who goes to jail and for how long. That is what plea bargaining is. It is not some adjunct to the criminal justice system; it is the criminal justice system.’”</p>
CATHERINE	LUTTER	Mrs	Stafford	<p>Criminal Justice Reform. Reinstate Parole. Early home release for non violent offenders. Hold VA DOC accountable for the violations on Civil Rights and Lack of Due process on inmates currently incarcerated.</p> <p>Because of plea bargains, the system can quickly handle the criminal cases of millions of Americans each year, involving everything from petty violations to violent crimes. But plea bargains make it easy for prosecutors to convict defendants who may not be guilty, who don't present a danger to society, or whose "crime" may primarily be a matter of suffering from poverty, mental illness, or addiction.</p>
Wayne	Chittum		Rockingham	Defunding police and gun control
				<p>It seems this is an opportune time for our radical Governor and Legislature to disarm, disrespect and defund police, with the "peaceful" demonstrations that are going on in Richmond. Protection of these "Peaceful" demonstrator's rights is much more important than allowing law abiding citizens the ability to defend themselves.</p>
Joy	Ferguson		Henrico	Cutting Police budgets and assault upon police officers
				<p>Undermining Police by both cutting their budgets and lessening punishment for assaults upon our Police is a really bad move. Personally, I cannot believe my eyes and ears to see how low the Democratic Party has become - morphing into Marxism. Chaos will reign in the streets and no one (even these "lawmakers" who are promoting this agenda) will feel safe on the streets and in his/her home. It is very clear to me that the Democrat Party is anti-American - how it has evolved is deplorable and our Fathers would be ashamed.</p>

				Expansion of Earned Time Credit Bill for Good Behavior	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all regardless of their charges during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. The prisons are way too congested. I need my husband home. For the past 12 years that he's been in, he's had no record of infraction..
Zahra	Al-Shair	Nil	Charlotte, NC	Expansion of Earned Time Credit Bill for Good Behavior	Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens and pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
David	Smith		Fredericksburg	Minimum sentences	Ok to reduce minimum sentences for first offence. But second or third or greater should be harsher. Once forgiven. Twice fooled.
Ruth	McLaughlin		Franklin	Earned sentence credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
David	Wells	None just me	Hardy	Mandatory minimum for conviction of an assault on a law-enforcement officer	Reduction of mandatory minimum for law-enforcement officers assaulted. I am not in favor as a former police officer of reduction of the mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines for those convicted of assaulting a police officer. I have performed those duties and I have been assaulted in the past myself and my family currently is still in law-enforcement. My son, who is a police officer was assaulted as well and in many instances the commonwealth attorney reduces it to begin with. Now they'll just be taken hundred that has met and dismissed if this plan moves forward. Do not do this.
Tracey	Hopper	n/a	Charlottesville	Police Reform	Dear Legislators: Here are a list of important police reforms that must be addressed immediately. The Commonwealth must: 1. Forbid the use of choke holds by police officers. 2. Forbid the police from laying any person with whom they are in contact on their stomachs in relation to the greater risk of suffocating persons in that position. 3. Forbid the police from placing a knee on a person's neck under any circumstance. 4. Immediately demilitarize the police. It is understandable that the National Guard is militarized, but not our local and state police departments. 5. Narrow and/or suspend qualified immunity for police officers and other law enforcement officials. 6. Immediately initiate a review of the entire model of policing in the Virginia. Police Departments should be re-organized and defunded. Community policing models which have the majority officers not carrying deadly weapons (guns or knives) should be implemented. Small SWAT-like teams could exist within these departments for the rare situations that might require police to carry deadly weapons to protect our citizens. Other international and national models that use these types of tiered-public safety models should be evaluated. 7. Require police officers to have a bachelor's degree with a curricula focus on community safety and care. We should have fewer officers who are better educated and paid better. Officers would work on a local task force with social workers, nurses etc. Persons who have the State's permission to injure and kill citizens must be better educated. 8. CRBs must have subpoena and disciplinary powers. 8. Drastic reform must take place within 12 months and not be "lost in committee." Thank you. Tracey Hopper
Cheryl	MonroeMedonich		Loudoun County, VA	Police/Sheriff Brutality	BLUE LIVES MATTER, too! Both my son (Chelan County Sheriff's Department in Washington State) and husband (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in Virginia) are Law Enforcement Officers. My SON is the Resource Officer for Chelan Elementary, Middle, and High School. IF you ask any of the staff and students, they will tell you of the excellent job my son is doing. He loves working with staff and students. When I was visiting him in Washington State, ALL ages of the students were calling out his name and "fist bumping, r waiving, or stopping to talk to him. He is a positive influence on all the students in those schools. God forbid there is a shooting at a school; the public will hold LEO's accountable for not being there in time! My husband is a Sergeant at the Adult Detention Center (previously head of the Diving Dept). If you ask the other LEO's or even inmates, you'll see that they find him honest and diligent in his duties. Odd how people would be able to harm LEO's but they don't want LEO's to enforce rules unless something bad happens to them...then they call LEOs immediately for assistance. Even odder, why is there marching/rioting when a white officer harms (purpose or accidentally) a black person but if the person is any other ethnic group (including another caucasian), nothing happens. When a black LEO does something to a ANYONE including blacks, they don't have the marching/riots. Anyone can harm LEO's but they don't want any ramification. Its a 2 way street. They should be held just as accountable as they demand LEO's be held. Don't call LEOs when you need help if you feel they don't deserve equal treatment. America is no longer the leader it is a shamed country with no justice.
James	Kelly		Lancaster	Reduced penalties for assaulting a police officer	Reduced penalties for assaulting a police officer; right after reduced penalties for assaulting a politician.
Doreen	Vretos		Charlottesville	Crime proposals	We need to support our police departments not undermine them. I support our officers. The laws that our being proposed will only endanger our officers and the community. I am against abolishing mandatory sentences. Assaulting a police officer should be a felony. Absolutely do not reduce it to a misdemeanor.

				Law abiding citizens don't have any problems with law enforcement. Only outlaws have problems with law enforcement and judicial proceedings. Who are we to be guided by? Only outlaws and selfish, self-serving politicians support the weakening of police and law enforcement in general, in addition to the judicial system., Think of a barrel of apples on a long-serving ship at sea. These barrels of apples are so necessary to the health, safety and survival of the crew, they must be preserved and protected at all cost -- yet every barrel will house a few rotten ones that if not found and removed, will destroy the entire barrel. Rotten apples must remind us of outlaws. If they are not found and removed, they will destroy the safety and security of our law abiding communities. Weakening our law enforcement efforts to satisfy the out cries of outlaws is a civil error of outlandish proportions. Our current civil unrest has to lie at the feet of those who have not taught respect for authority and promoted taking personal responsibility for one's actions. This committee has the opportunity and the responsibility to put a stumbling block in front of this rumbling chaos sweeping across our great nation by representing law abiding citizens and not outlaws.
JAMES	CROSBY	Crozet	Support for law enforcement	
Andrew	Podolak	Warren County	Police	Under no circumstance defund the police or remove them from schools. Only an idiot would think otherwise!
Roberta	Abbott	Manakin Sabot	repeal of existing laws	I strongly urge resisting the repeal of existing laws relating to attacks on police , teachers, rape of minor children and all others that are currently being proposed. Our citizens and those that protect us must have the State's protection and respect.
Manuel	Lam	Elkton	Minimum sentences / Minummm Jail Time.....This is to make sure no laws are changed on Virginia docs for Minimum sentences for people who assault police officers, and Minimum jail time for assaulting teachers with a weapon, raping children under 12, and killing of an police officer...	This is to request and make sure as a registered voter, that there is no changes made for minimum charges against someone who assaults a police person, and minimum jail time for anyone who assaults a teacher with a weapon, rapes a child under age 12, and kills a police officerThank You, Manuel Lam
Sharon	Ledford	North Prince George	Abolishing mandatory minimums and cutting funding to police	I feel as "we the people" are being ignored on very important issues because of a few demonstrators, rioters and looters. Mandatory minimums were put in place for a reason. They need to stay the same or even be increased for some crimes. Cutting funding to police is totally absurd. These brave men and women put their lives on the line everyday to protect all of us. Are there bad ones? Yes, most definitely, just as you will find bad politicians, bad Dr's, bad religious figures and bad apples in every aspect of life. It's a fact that will forever exist there are just bad people in this world. However it is up to us, the good people to seek that out and change it. To remove those mandatory sentences is to tell everyone that's good and wants a good life that they don't matter. There good actions don't matter. Do not cave to the thinking of bad people. PLEASE, remember the good people. The ones that aren't out there destroying cities to make you do the things that are being asked of you. If anything make more laws to stop the destruction or let the police (and military if necessary) do their jobs and cease the destruction. Our beautiful country is becoming a laughing stock to other developed countries. Border crossings aren't down because of a wall, they're down because people are scared to come to a country in chaos. I live near Richmond and will not come to Richmond until this has stopped. If this continues I see another civil war on the horizon. Please don't let that happen.
Kathi-Jane	Alvarado	Mrs.	LAS CRUCES	Earned Sentence Credits
Jeff	McDonell	Manassas	Police budgets and Assault on Police Officer consequences	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session. Enough is enough. The Democrats in Richmond are working hard at totally destroying the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you allow police budgets to be drastically cut or eliminated, as has been proposed in too many localities across this nation with drastic results, Virginia will devolve into total chaos. Reducing consequences of assault on police officers to a misdemeanor makes absolutely no sense, especially if they are assaulted as private citizens the consequences remain a felony. What are our state legislators thinking? Certainly not about the well-being of their constituents. Every effort needs to be taken to maintain police budgets, keep assault on police officers a felony offense and work at securing the Commonwealth for the sake of its citizens. The Democrats are way off base on their efforts.
greg	fischer	earlysville	police/crime/penalties	please support police and do not cut budgets. we need police more than ever and I want to stand by them. Additionally, decreasing penalties for people who assault police officers is a wrong message – why would you do this? This is not right. I also think it is wrong to remove law enforcement in schools. I feel the presence of this deters crime and without this would lead to more school violence. Community engaged policing does not sit well with me as often times events that these people would encounter are potentially very dangerous and are best handled by our local police. Laws broken should have penalties and these deterrents should deter you from committing crime. Without strong penalties, of course more crime will be committed. I do not want this. Please take a strong stance on crime. Thank you – greg fischer/Earlysville va
Carroll	White	Albemarle	Police	I in no way support the defunding of the police department, lessening of sentences for those who assault the police, or removing police protection from our schools. To do so would jeopardize the safety of our citizens.
				What on earth can you possibly be thinking? Have we not had enough anarchy in our commonwealth recently?

Bernard Hill	Chesapeake	Law Enforcement	I am very saddened to hear my home state for 67 years is now looking to reduce crimes against law enforcement officers. This is a total disregard for officer's safety. I am totally opposed to reducing an assault on a police officer next to nothing more than a traffic ticket. If this law changes, it will be you held responsible for the deaths and injuries to our law enforcement community. I have no words except to say Virginia continues to move backwards. No wonder I keep reading the folks are moving out of Virginia more and more each year. If this continues, my family and my business will move as well because there will be no law enforcement to protect us.
FRED GRUBER	AppreCap Services	LOUISA	LAWS REGARDING CRIME OR POLICE
			<p>I'm Santia of Henrico, writing to affirm my support for expanding the earned sentence credits system in our great commonwealth of Virginia.</p> <p>All people are deserving of a second chance and we are able to help make this happen in 2020. We are asking that those who have had great behavior, participated in programs, and gone to school be granted a little more time off their expansive sentences. This can help alleviate some of the racial injustices and damage done by the system in the past 25 years. Please vote 'yea' on the full proposed bill, as those with 'violent' crimes are already serving extended sentences.</p> <p>I am apart of a great organization called Brilliance Behind Bars (brilliancebehindbars.com), where our main focus is expanding higher education for those incarcerated in VA. We give them platform to write essays and express their opinions on a larger scale than they would normally have. Thank you.</p> <p>Please keep officers in the schools. My granddaughter was in the freshman building and the first classroom shot into at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida. She witnessed six of her classmates, out of twenty, get shot. By the grace of God, she was physically unharmed. Three of her classmates died. If the officers had been able to go in, it would have saved many. Seventeen died because of lack of armed protection! She is a rising senior and mentally feels much safer with the police presence. They have a great relationship with them. If you need further information on eye witness accounts of what really happened, read "Why Meadow Died" by Andrew Pollack.</p> <p>I strongly support increased earned sentence credits for those who are incarcerated. Being provided with an opportunity to EARN time off their sentences would give those men and women hope and motivate them to invest in rehabilitation.</p> <p>I think it is a shame that this is even a conversation that has to be had! In THIS FREE America that my husband (And so many others) fought and died for and is inurned at Arlington . The question of police presence and funding? REALLY?! They, like the military put themselves out there in harms way EVERY SINGLE DAY for you and for me, for those who support them and those who hate them. Has anyone really thought about what a country without law enforcement would be? THINK about it, long and hard. They deserve so much more than they get. Those men and women leave home and they nor their loved ones know if they will ever be back home again. The liberals of this land are taking away everything that's important and everything that has made us the greatest country in the world. PAY the police, give them a raise. Give them our support, let the, do their job. Thank you</p> <p>I do not support any type of deregulation or defunding of law enforcement or school resourse officers. It wasnt long ago that we cared about the safety of our children and communities. It seems as if the the people in power favor votes over the safty of all of their contituants now. I do not feel safe sending my children into an unsafe place (public schools if you remove peace officers). I also will not put my life on the line to police my own community. Knowing that as they say in areas already overrun with crime " snitches get stitches".</p> <p>Thank you, Very concerned citizen</p>
Santia Nance	Brilliance Behind Bars	Henrico	Earned Sentence Credits
Phyllis Karhatsu		Midlothian	Officers in schools
Angela Adinolfi		Richmond	Increased Earned Sentence Credits-VADOC
Deborah Hickman		Albemarle	Police funding
Tyler Ayres		Ruckersille	Police reform
Naobi Cook-Tabron		Winchester	Good Time Credit Expansion - HB1532
Amy Brummett		Ringgold	Special session, Expand earned sentence credits
			<p>A lot of our loved ones that are behind bars have been given lengthy sentences that are outrageous and unjustifiable. I believe that a lot of them also deserve second chances. I ask that you please vote in favor and allow our loved ones the opportunity to EARN their way home to us.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one Timothy James Brummett during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.</p>

Elizabeth	Trullender		WOODBRIDGE	Public safety	I am writing in support of enforcing laws and abiding by our Constitution, and I am opposed to defunding the police. I am very concerned about what is happening in cities run by the Democratic party. Anarchy, lawlessness, burning, looting of businesses, and murders. We look like a third world country. I believe in peaceful protests, but what is happening now is mayhem and domestic terrorists trying to overthrow the way of life for law abiding citizens. The American Dream is being ripped from tax paying small business owners who are losing their businesses to theft, arson, bodily harm and murders by rioters. I am in support of giving more taxes to the police department so that they can better train their officers. I think it's a ridiculous notion that social workers are the answer to disarming criminals, evil individuals, that have no regard for life. Our police departments are over tasked every day, and they are doing a great job. Our law enforcement officers are being asked to assess situations where they have to deal with drug or mental health crisis. Our country needs mental health reform. We need prosecutors that will do their jobs, instead of letting criminals back on the street. I thought stereotyping people was racist, but that is exactly what our State government is doing to our law enforcement heroes. A few bad cops, just like a few bad people of different races and ethnicity; hold the individuals accountable. I am a Virginia native and live here because I feel safe and I am raising a family here. If we defund the police, I believe our crime rate will increase and retention of officers and deputies will decrease. Please don't penalize law abiding citizens.
Melissa	Garraghty		Evington	Earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my fiancé is a great person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Donna	Knoell		Albemarle County	Defunding/removing police	I fully support honest efforts to improve the behavior of ALL citizens. As a citizen, I oppose efforts to reduce penalties against police for lawfully performing their sworn duty. As a project manager, I ALSO hope that any plans to defund police forces, reduce mandatory sentences, or remove school resource officers are accompanied by CLEAR PROTOCOLS for WHAT WILL REPLACE THEM. Who will respond to calls from family members when the father has said "call the police I want them to come kill me"? Who will accompany the counselor or social worker to the home in response to a 6th grader's plea for help because of a parent's violent or abusive behavior. These changes will take a lot of time; responsibilities must be reassigned + processes redesigned. I also hope ALL these conversations INCLUDE discussions of ALL citizens' RESPONSIBILITY for their behavior own and an understanding of the rule of law. Remove the police willy-nilly + you will create a leadership void that brings anarchy. I would like to hear what are the protesters DOING to LEAD the way to make things better: Turning off the TV and reading with their children? Teaching them family history? Volunteering at school? Disciplining themselves + their children? Just shouting slogans does not accomplish anything. You need a plan - including contingencies, feedback, consequences, accountability, and FULL participation. Thank you for considering my viewpoint.
Sandra	Cuddy	Private Citizen, wife, mother, grandmother	Fredericksburg	Logical Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing police from schools leaves students, faculty, and staff open to situations that could cause them harm. I have taught in Iowa, New York, and Florida. Occasionally, emotional situations arise that require restraint, supervision, removal, an authoritarian figure, counseling, and someone trained to react quickly and logically. Someone dedicated to these situations keeps all safe and gives parents comfort. Police are needed in schools these days. They also create trust with the community and teach students that they are there to help and protect in a variety of life situations. Their removal is short-sighted and illogical. 2. Defunding the police makes no sense. Criminals will see this as a green light to do whatever they like. Innocent people will be put at risk. Private citizens will need to take up arms to protect themselves from the growing evil. The US is desirable because of the rule of law that keeps citizens safe, secure, and productive. I have seen police come to the aid of neighbors and spend hours defusing a domestic situation. A counselor or social worker would not have demanded the respect that the police, with cars lit up, sirens going, and protective gear demand. To defund the police puts us all in jeopardy and makes me fearful, worried, and question the logic of this policy. 3. If anyone assaults or threatens police or vandalizes their property can get away with it, we are all put in jeopardy. Because one officer showed horrid judgement, doesn't mean they all do. Where is the logic? If a car is a lemon, we don't stop owning one. If we are poorly served while in a restaurant, do we never eat out again? Police need protection from those who would harm them.
Richard	Fender	Self	Norfolk	Mandatory Minimums	Mandatory Minimums are an absolute necessity to keep the peace in a community. They preserve a greater feeling of comfort to the victim of a crime knowing that if a person is assaulted for any unprovoked reason the attacker(s) should and will be punished for the inappropriate/aggressive behavior and knowing in advance that a mandatory sentence is in place will help discourage the event from happening. These minimums must be preserved to protect ALL citizens including police personnel from assault for merely adhering to the requirements of their duties.
Betty	Reese		Dayton	Police	Defunding Police Departments. The suggestion and call to defund a Police Department is absolutely absurd. Officers are often called upon at the worst possible hours of the day or night to intervene in one person's inappropriate behavior toward another person, protect property and enforce existing laws. Any lawmaker who calls for defunding police departments is a disgrace to common decency and should be recalled by the voters for even uttering such a stupid suggestion let alone voting to defund a department.
William	Jackson		Rockingham - Grottoes	Police Reform	Law enforcement personnel in the schools is due to inappropriate behaviors exhibited by aggressive students toward their peers and to protect all personnel in the event of an attack launched by someone outside the student and faculty community. This service must be preserved and continued.
					Thank you for allowing me to express my views on these important matters.
					Police, I think we need more officers and not less, give them more \$, more training....thank you
					Social programs will not work to prevent crime in VA, or anywhere else.
					The problem is not police officers in general, but rather failure to deal with those who should be removed from law enforcement duties.
					Certainly reform is needed, but defunding is NOT THE ANSWER!!!!

Miya	Cheatham	Richmond	Earned sentence credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p> <p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>I would like to voice my opposition reducing budget for police department, removal of SRO's and reducing assault charges on police officers.</p> <p>Approaching topics of social justice by the ways of defunding, dismantling and easing punishment is not the answer. Removing SRO's will remove the safety many parents feel when sending their kid to a public school. Decreasing penalty for assaulting police officers will cause offenders to think they can do anything and get away with it AND pushes, an already disrespectful society, to become unhinged. Reducing police budget will reduce law abiding citizens sense of safety.</p> <p>As a law abiding VIRGINIA citizen, I am greatly concerned of safety, not only for my family, but for the many families in Virginia.</p> <p>Activists who are speaking to persuade this committee are not speaking as Virginians. These activists are not interested in the citizens of Virginia. They will not experience life without an SRO or reduced police funding or decrease penalty for assaulting a police officer. They don't speak for those kids in schools who find safety seeing an SRO. They don't speak for victims. They push an agenda that doesn't involve them directly. Please don't be persuaded by their narrative, but listen to an actual Virginian with legitimate concerns for all Virginians.</p> <p>Enough is enough. Please focus efforts on real issues of racism. These issues presented today is not going to solve any problems, but will cause more problems than every imagined. Case in point, Richmond, Seattle, Oregon, etc. No control just destruction. This is NOT progress.</p>
Vassanthi	Griffis	Culpeper	SRO's, Assault on Law Enforcement and Budget Cuts	<p>Thank you for your time and work in this committee.</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My loved one David Peeples was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
Tiffany	Caine	Henrico	Earned Sentence Credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Husband is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
Joanne	Versage	Bristow	Earned sentence credits for ALL	<p>As U S tax paying citizen I demand continued proper funding for our police locally and statewide. We do not want to have Seattle, Portland, Chicago here in Virginia.....we only have to see what has transpired in our capital Richmond to truly see what can happen and we are sorely frightened. Please stand up to the mobs unless we be devoured and lose our liberty and freedom and right to happiness.</p>
T	Stone	Albermarle	Law and order in the Commonwealth	<p>Common sense tells us we need our police to protect us from people who rob, steal, murder, destroy property, or disobey other laws. There is no logical reason to think that removing them from schools or cutting their salary or decreasing penalties for assaulting police officers would result in helping them protect us. It amazes me that so many men and women put their lives on the line every day to help make our communities safe places to live. We should be doing all we can to help them do their job, not spitting in their faces.</p>
Sharon	Sutton	Palmyra	Police protection	<p>Since I was a child I was always taught to respect my elders and the police! There is not much respect for police or even life any longer. The last weeks have saddened me greatly.</p> <p>Our police officers have a split second to decide to take a life or hesitate and theirs is taken by someone that hates! When a police officer is arresting you, don't resist. Have your day in court. I realize their are some bad officers but the majority are helpful and do their jobs well. Believe me, I have a son that has been arrested a couple of times and the police officers that have arrested him were very considerate but got the job done! Reducing sentencing for this crime is ridiculous, as is making certain crimes as raping a child under 12 years of age, REALLY???</p> <p>What is wrong with you people that you would consider this? Do you not care for victims? DO THE CRIME, DO THE TIME! EXTRA FOR RESISTING ARREST!</p>
Peggy	Albert	Albemarle	Sentencing of criminals	<p>Thank you</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. I pray it will also be taken into consideration what prison is or should be designed for. It is of course, for punishment but most importantly, it is supposed to be rehabilitating so that when released, the offender is more likely to be a successful citizen in society. The longer the sentence, the more the punishment side of things can interfere with the rehabilitation. We must give them hope and attainable goals, not excessive sentencing to fuel depression and despair. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my son is a good person who committed victimless crimes and needs to be home with us during this time. My health is very bad and I pray I get to see my son free. I need him. Thank you & God Bless</p>
Janet	Lee	Coalition for Prison Reform	Alleghany County Earned sentence credits	

Carmen	Smith	Louisa	Law enforcement officers (community-engaged policing, bias, and hate crime), Commonwealth Attorneys and Judges (bias), and mandatory minimums	<p>Hello, Thank you for considering policies around justice and public safety. I implore you to consider those that could be hurt by not being separated from criminals. Mandatory minimums can potential help victims find time to heal, relocate, or seek restitution while the offender is in jail. There is a plethora of case law available that would make easy to know how to charge, convict, and sentence offenders for crimes. I'm not convinced there is a great deal of bias when it comes to arguing and judging cases in the Commonwealth. Our officers have suffered such heartbreak and disrespect during this time, making it so it's more difficult or impossible to do their jobs well will endanger the Commonwealth as a whole. Please keep this in mind as you're hearing others. We must protect victims from offenders, we can depend on case law to subvert any bias, and must make it so police can do their jobs effectively to protect the Commonwealth.</p>	
Victor	Pena	None	Albemarle Albemarle County	<p>Removal of Schools Resource Officers and Reduction To Misdemeanors Assaults on Police Officers Support for Earned "Good Time" Sentencing Credits</p> <p>If a roadmap to the rise of anarchy were to be drawn the proposals be the General Assembly certainly qualify! What are you all thinking? Just look around around! Listen to and read the news. For goodness sake! Most sincerely, Victor Pena</p>	
Joanna	Magee			I support passage of The Earned Good Time Credits Bill for ALL, no matter the charge. Inmates deserve a chance to move forward.	
Tatum	Swain	Virginia Beach	Good Time Credits	<p>To whom it may concern, I am a father of two and an husband to a wife of sixteen years. I've been working as a medical sanitation tech. for over two years. During my employment I've earned my apprenticeship in custodial maintenance, and building maintenance. With an interest in HVAC. I'm now enrolled online working on my degree in business management. Over my life time I've been growing as a man. I haven't been perfect in all my decisions but I've learned from my mistakes maybe not when I was younger, however, in my older years I see things in life in an different perspective. I have dreams and admiration of being successful, through hard work and dedication, I will be ! My story like any man is the same however, the only difference is I'm incarcerated. Am I not still American? Am I not still a citizen of this great country that has a historical record of being an example to the world, showing the world that all men are created equal. Until you make an error in judgement? Something not all can make amendments. I am not a waste, nor do I waste my time. Every program, any type of educational advancement that is available I took advantage of. Now all I can do is wait my turn to use this new found power I have, the sense of direction. Simple but yet powerful. So I speak for so many of us in here that took their time and used it wisely, to better our self's as an person. Give us a chance to earn extra credit good time, if not for doing good but for our health also. I still believed in this great nation regardless of what is going on around us, all I'm asking is believed in me. Thank you. Johnnie M Swain #1063881</p>	
alison	bruns	Rockingham	Minimum Sentencing	<p>I am only for minimum sentencing where it involves the abuse of a child, assault on police officers. However, given the number of times a judge imposes long sentences on those who plead innocent the mandatory minimums become problematic. Take for instance Anthony "Dustin" McMillan, sentence for two counts of robbery as an 18 years old. This was 18 years ago and all involved in that crime are out except for him. He is not out because he is innocent and pled as such. However, when the jury found him guilty but tried to give him the minimum allowed, it still added up to 31 years. So this is why mandatory minimums are problematic. On the otherhand, the problem is within those exceptions where detectives did not rise to the duty of their office and obtained many false confessions, or conveniently forgot to tape a confession and hand wrote it later. Parole needs to be reestablished for everyone in a Virginia prison right now. It does not mean prisoners will be set free. It only means they will submit their parole application and still wait years for a parole board to review it. The hype on the Republican side of criminals needs to stop. The support on the Democrat side and all major news and sports organizations of "Black Lives Matter" organization calling for an end to policing needs to stop. It is counter productive. Let's fix the problem, but not create more while doing so. Get together and root out the radicals who seek to destroy on both sides. God bless Virginia with common sense.</p>	
Marilyn	Osborne-Bach	My Household	Huddleston	Law Enforcement Support	<p>We believe it's extremely important to support our law enforcement officers. They need more help - not less - to enforce our laws and keep our communities safe and allow us to live in a civilized society. Funding at current or higher levels AND appropriate punishment for those who assault or kill an officer is crucial.</p>
Robin	Crittenden		NORTH CHESTERFIELD	Minimum Sentences	<p>I want to urge you to not reduce or abolish the minimum sentence requirement for crimes committed against police officers or any person of authority. The thought that criminals can behave however they want and just get their hands slapped is frankly nauseating. I am a Born in Virginia resident of Chesterfield County and its appalling to see what is happening to our state. As a woman it is scary to think that in an emergency there may come a time when no one would come. All the rioting and destruction must be stopped. Do not destroy our State just to prove a political point. The people of Virginia want better from our legislators, regardless of party.</p>
Rhonda	McGuire		Chesterfield	Earned sentence credit	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
Markiya	Cheatham		Richmond	Earned Credit	<p>Example 2: Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My brother was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>

				<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too.</p> <p>My fiance has been incarcerated for over 10 years. He is not wholly defined by codified legislation. Deemed a "violent offender" this man was always willing to work 2-3 jobs to support his family. While self-employed, he took time from his day to deliver boxes of donuts to the local firehouses. His crime(s) in no way defines him or his capabilities. One very poor decision during a time that life had taken the wind from his wings has cost him more than he ever could have imagined and he is filled with regret because of it.</p> <p>Over the years we have observed individuals enter and exit prison walls who have committed crimes far more heinous than his own; men with no interest in making positive contributions to society. He is a good man who loves his children. They need him home now more than ever. During this time of COVID-19, life is stressful for us all, but it has especially taken a harsh toll on his 16 y/o daughter who struggles with mental illness. There is so much good that he can do if allowed to return home to us sooner than later.</p> <p>I currently reside in Florida but will be relocating to Virginia next year to be closer to him and his children. He has a solid home plan, strong support system, and the drive to be successful in order to provide for his family.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Wendy	Sites	Lehigh Acres, FL	Earned Sentence Credits	
Latonya	Clark	Henrico	Expand earned income credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My friend David Peeples was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p> <p>https://hodspeak.house.virginia.gov/submit_testimony?meeting_id=8616</p>
Patty	Stratton	Lorton	Protect our Police/Support our Police	You MUST continue to enforce mandatory minimum sentences for an assault on a police officer! Enough of this nonsense! DO NOT defund police or remove them from schools. What are you going to do when the next Sandy Hook happens and everyone's screaming for police? Have some common sense!
George	Foley	rucketsville	police people protection	protect the public
Kristina	Moss	Buckingham	Criminal Justice Reform/Earned Sentence Credits	<p>Earned Sentence Credits gives a second chance to those who DESERVE it!! This is a great way to start making the long overdue and necessary changes in the criminal justice system that is so badly needed. It also gives the officers a chance to work together in implementing real change in the institution, by using corrections, the way it was actually intended, "to correct." When these men and women have something to lose they will be less likely to commit infractions and if they do it comes with a heavy penalty. Providing the ability for them to earn time off their sentence with good behavior, conforming to the rules, as well as completing programs, etc. is a unique way to create a safe environment for all. With Earned Sentence Credits it restores HOPE at a second chance, many of us today would not be where we are at in this life if we had not been given a second chance by someone along the road. The Earned Sentence Credits is a gradual gaining program, therefore it gives better insight to long term behavior. It will help give a more accurate depiction of someone's behaviors, patterns, and likelihood to remain free while helping those incarcerated to better themselves. This is a great way to not GIVE time but to allow them to EARN time!! I am support of this 100% and I pray that you all are as well!!</p> <p>It is time for both a forward and progressive change in the Virginia criminal justice system. Men and women from all over the state are being "warehoused" for monetary gain and it is time to put a stop to it. It's time to restore HOPE to families all over Virginia and for Virginia to be a leader in the country in giving a SECOND CHANCE!! Thank you for your time. Kristina</p>
George	Foley	rucketsville	police people protection	protect the people
Kristin	Bratton	Wise	Earned Sentence Credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my daughter during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars with 20 people in a pod meant for 14. They are currently not quarantining new intakes, and the conditions in our prisons and jails right now is scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my daughter to come home where she can help me during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.</p> <p>Respectfully, Eva Buchanan Mother of Ashley Foscoe housed at Alleghany Regional Jail awaiting DOC release date calculation.</p>
Eva	Buchanan	Covington		
Paulettra	James	Woodbridge	Good Time Earning Credit	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within the legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counterproductive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give the incentive to be better people. My husband/son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

				<p>I am writing to implore you to take the opportunity during the upcoming special legislation session to pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind. It is important to offer this incentive to ALL offenders. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences should be equal for everyone. The gravity of their crime has already been addressed. All offenders need an opportunity to understand that their change in behavior and growth are recognized and worthy. Becoming a better citizen is the "job" of offenders. How hard would most people work at a job that doesn't offer REAL incentive for high performance? Our Criminal Justice System needs to focus on being rehabilitative and not punitive. The system is so overcrowded that it is impossible to offer programs to everyone. We have a real opportunity to change lives during incarceration but because of the outrageous number of inmates, the resources aren't there.</p> <p>My son is currently incarcerated in Virginia. His crime was committed in an effort to obtain drugs to fuel his addiction. I am grateful that he has had an opportunity to get clean and change his mind set about drugs. Being in prison has literally saved his life as many of his peers have overdosed and died. It is time for him to come home and be a father to his daughter, a son to his parents, and to spend time with his ailing 88 year old grandfather while he still can. Incarceration is a sentence the entire family serves and it has taken a toll on all of us. All offenders (and their families) deserve a second chance. Thank you.</p>
Anne	Puckett	Madison, NC	Increased Good Time for ALL	
Bonnie	Williams	Pittsylvania county	Good time bill	<p>I am hoping the good time bill sentence reduction will be approved during the special session. Including everyone. I feel that it should be passed, especially during this pandemic. I think inmates that build up good time credits should have a chance. Thank You.</p>
				<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
				<p>Sentences are supposed to be about the opportunity to reform. Some crimes committed while young, and due to extenuating circumstances are in many not going to be repeated once released. Offenders who have worked repetitively to get to lower institutions, each time starting fresh and proving good intentions time and time again. Those who have taken courses, training, counseling, and loyally attend Church, why in any other State they would have the opportunity for parol, to serve sentences that exceed those awarded for murder, for a past mistake and with over 15 years served seems a deterrent for men and women to improve themselves and truly reform while behind bars. Let us not punish those and instead reward those who have turned around and proven that they are ready to reenter society, due to the enormous steps that they have taken. Give these men and woman a second chance, and let the communities benefit from the hard work and reform that they have achieved.</p>
Sarah	Gaudet	Victoria	Special Assembly: Virginia Corrections, Department of; earned sentence credits Bill, HB1532	
				<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother, Taj Mahon-Haft (#1489773) is my best friend and an amazing man. He is the most sensitive caring guy I know and his son is his pride and joy. His son especially needs him right now!</p> <p>Even with the charges they claim, he was given an extremely unfair and excessive sentence. For a first time non-violent crime, a fifteen-year sentence is unwarranted. This is a man who is a lover and only wishes to make improvements in the world. He volunteered in prisons before. Please let him get back to his life of teaching and service. His family and friends love and miss him, especially his son who talks to him daily.</p> <p>Even with the charges they claim, he was given an extremely unfair and excessive sentence. For a first time non-violent crime, a fifteen-year sentence is unwarranted. This is a man who is a lover and only wishes to make improvements in the world. He volunteered in prisons before. Please let him get back to his life of teaching and service. His family and friends love and miss him, especially his son who talks to him daily.</p> <p>My brother needs out. His alleged crime had no victim; he has already served the recommended sentence for the crime. I fear for his health at this time and his family needs him! There is no threat with him getting out; there is only a threat of keeping him in. There are many people who love him and could benefit greatly from him getting out.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
Marigot	Miller	Baltimore	Expansion of Earned Sentence Credits	
				<p>Last week in House committee we heard a speaker demand that we remove law enforcement from schools and cut police budgets. Meanwhile, a Democratic state senator continues to fight to decrease penalties for those who assault police officers.</p> <p>These proposals have no basis or justification to be considered in the state of Virginia. Virginia is governed by the rule of law. Those who even voice such proposals only seek to destroy the provisions of the US and Commonwealth of Virginia Constitution.</p> <p>The Citizens of Virginia demand that elected officials who make such irresponsible and totally unjustified proposals contrary to their oath of office be publicly exposed and expunged from the Virginia legislature. By attempting such irresponsible discussions without any legal or demonstrated justification such negligent and unlawful tyrants deserve to leave the legislature immediately, We demand that the lawfully elected and sworn legislators in aggregate and on the public record demand the resignation of those anti freedom officials who are willfully and blatantly violating their oath of office.</p>
Francis	Symanoskie	Montgomery	School Law Enforcemen and decrease penalties	
				<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivise better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should give incentive to be better.</p> <p>My fiancée was NOT accused of a violent crime but a drug possession, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. HE deserves a second chance, as do they all. The majority of States have this or something similar in affect already. Virginia is the only state that requires this length of time served and our prisons are overpopulated and underfunded. There is not enough staff on a normal basis and throughout this epidemic there is even less. I want my fiancée to come home healthy and be able to help his mom and my mom and grandmother, NOT INFECTED by a guard or fellow prisoner.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Christina	Miller	Arvonja	Earned Sentence Credits	

					I am a family member w/ a loved one incarcerated for the past 22 yrs in VA. He is current at NCC. He took an Alford plea at 18 yrs old in exchange for 45 yrs. First time offender. He was young, scared, out of state, black, in the south, & alone. He lacked parental and legal guidance. He had a public defender who convinced him going to trial was not a good idea. He carries the label of "Violent" offender due to his charge. He is not and has never been violent. He has done everything in the DOC to make himself better. He has been a SAM community mentor for 4 yrs. There is NOTHING left for him to do in prison for another 23 years but rot. This is NOT the point of prison. He has a grandmother who is a former MA representative. A father who is a well known healthcare worker. He has a huge support system, place to live, and resources for employment. He has in place ALL the requirements that reduce recidivism and increase success. And, he has no previous criminal record. Many young men and women like him, who've entered the system as kids, deserve the right to be given a second chance at living the rest of their life free contributing to society. I understand reinstating Parole is a large systematic task that requires time to implement BUT IT NEEDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED. NO more studies. Your parole board needs to implement compassion. They deny 96% of cases that come before them or the governor needs to implement a new board. These men and women deserve GOOD TIME CREDITS b/c they have worked hard to rehabilitate themselves despite the obstacles against them. EVERYONE deserves a second chance. We reward animals for good behavior why can't we show ALL HUMANS the same decency regardless of labels. I want to bring my LO home.
Juanita	Belton		Brockton	Good Time Credit and Parole	
Leslie	Barlow		Chesterfield	Earned sentence credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My brother was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Sylvia	Williamson	Police departments	Chesterfield	Funding and Cuts	Please please please DO NOT REMOVE LAW ENFORCEMENT NOR CUT FUNDING!!!!!! We appreciate and NEED THESE LAE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM IN SUCH A LAWLESS SOCIETY. DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO DESTROY AMERICA! WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRY!!!!!!
Sharon	McKenna		Ashland	July 29, 2020 meeting	I totally disagree with eliminating the "Mandated Minor " sentences for offenders. Public servants, including the police force, need to be protected. It is ludicrous that someone can hit a police officer with a bull horn and not be punished because the assailant is a teacher. The teacher should have been arrested, charged, and fired. Where have common sense and civility gone? Folks feel they are entitled to burn buildings, tear down statues, accost police and they are right because there is no punishment. Really? Gee, when the Seattle protesters showed up at the Mayor's House, she was frightened. How about those folks who were trapped in Seattle for weeks and emergency personnel couldn't get through? This is insanity- people have too much time on their hands. I know 6-8 people who have stopped working because they make more money on unemployment and the stimulus checks. Has anyone read, Atlas Shrugged? Perhaps Congress should read it again during the August break. No resource officers in the schools? I have seen first hand how officers can diffuse situations with students all the while making friends. Tell the parents of the children killed at Sandy Hook that law enforcement isn't beneficial. Have you gone mad? Without the police, there is no civility! Yes, there are some bad officers but that is true of every organization. I am surprised anyone wants to be in the police force. Defund Planned Parenthood. They murder babies and sell their body parts. How is that for racism? Unborn babies eliminated. The mayhem that has occurred nationally is disgraceful. Yes, Black Lives Matter but All Lives Matter, particularly those of unborn babies. Please bring this madness to an end.
Michelle	Cartrett		Lynchburg Va	Good Time Credits	I am in complete support of this good time credits Bill as it will give so many an incentive to do better and strive for something as it stands now there is not enough time taken off so I feel like many off the Residents Just dont look at weather or not they are earning good time or not the only ones who do are the ones who are going to be there for a long time because that is the only time it really adds up now. with this new bill it will add up for everyone who is doing what they are supposed to and making that change for the better. My Husband is 9 years in on a 22 year sentence as it stands now he has been a model resident and will only get a few years off his time . If you choose to pass this bill he will be home much sooner a much better man than when he left home. I thank you for this bill .
Jacqueline	Driza		Virginia beach	Good Time Earning Credits	I support the good time earning credit increases.
Alicia	Wyatt		Richmond	Earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My friend David Peeples was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Tyler	Knight		Richmond	Earned credit sentencing	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my cousin is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
ROBERT	MAHER		PALMYRA	defunding police	Do not defund the police or reduce mandatory minimums. These actions will be putting the citizens of Virginia more at risk. As elected officials you are sworn to protect the citizens you represent not put them in harms way. If someone commits a crime they deserve to be arrested and do the time.
Kathleen	Alderson	Personal	Scottsville, Virginia	Assault on Police Officers & Reduction of Mandatory Minimum Sentences	I'm writing to comment that the assault on Police Officers should still be considered a Felony as they are public servants and put their lives on the line every day. When a police officer gets shot because someone has just killed someone, do we want him back in society to kill someone else? What if that was your family member - mother, wife, daughter, son - would you want that person back on the street again to kill again? Minimum sentences don't fix the problem for people that want to kill other people. Keeping them off the streets and away from society usually do. Do you want them to sexually assault your grandchildren and children after they've been known to do it for years? Granted, the system doesn't always work, but given the increase in violent crimes over the last few weeks - who do people call - Police Officers! God told us to love one another! We need to try and try to remember that!

					My son, not by birth, has been incarcerated for 2 decades in Virginia. Under the current laws which are antiquated he will be incarcerated for another decade or more. He started his incarceration at 18 yrs old. We look at 18 as legal to do many things but many kids are still immature. Our relationship grew into a mother son relationship because I got to know him through my children. his relationship with his own parents were estranged. He was an amazing kid and it pains me to see him still sit in prison. Prisons are supposed to be place men and woman go to serve their time and be rehabilitated with the plan for them to re-enter society hopefully as better people. What Virginia has created is a warehouse for black and brown people to just sit for years with no hope for parole unless your crime was committed before 1995 and No good time credits aka no incentive to do well or take an initiative in prison. As human beings we all make mistakes. A sin is a sin, no one sin is greater though we like to compare wrongs. Everyone deserves a second chance to show their growth. My son has grown since age 18 and he had to grow up in prison so for him to be the man he is under those circumstances makes me proud. I pray to GOD I see him free before I leave this earth. Families and have been BROKEN due to the tough on crime laws that most today say was the wrong approach. I still mourn my son today. It is time for change. It is time for PAROLE, a compassionate and progressive parole board and GOOD TIME CREDITS (which seem the easier to implement now) . NOW IS THE TIME. Stop making excuses. FOR ALL. stop picking and choosing. God does not pick and choose. we do not have a right either.
Aretta	Williams		Taunton	Good Time Credit and Parole	
Charles	Gorski		Va. Beach	Police budgets, officers at schools	I cannot help but wonder what is behind cutting the police budget. They are often under paid for what they do. We have see on TV the consequences of police not doing their job or being restricted. Sixty days of riot and destruction. I can only assume none of you are business men! Most of us want safety, and peaceful communities. The blue line is all that stands between us and criminals. If you all think that you will be safe, better check west coast and see how well that does not work. I think it is better to give people a helping hand, not a hand out. For many years this has been done and the result is horrible, poverty crime and especially gangs who want a real family and get it thru dangs. Your agenda has miserably failed!! As for officers at school that is a no brainer. The More you do gun control the more the bad guys win! Protect our children with an officer, not a gun free zone that is a joke.
Brittany	Caplinger	Prison reform	Rockingham	Prison reform	I would like to see prison reform to happen Bring back parole and earned credit time for ALL INMATES regards of the crime
Karen	Stewart	My husband Ennis Stewart	Prince william	submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session
Krystle	Hammock		Martinsville		I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session
Susan	Scott	Home Management	Ruckersville	Public safety in our schools and cities	I support the expansion of earned sentence credits for all. Everybody deserves a second chance and this bill gives them the chance to earn it. Attention Courts of Justice and Public Safety Committees: July 27, 2020 There is nothing good about de-funding police departments and taking the police out of the schools. Our safety is at risk with the crime that is generating in our cities. Then the criminals that have been released from our jails. These criminals will be in their glory robbing and killing innocent victims. It is like releasing a Pandora's box onto our fellow citizens! The criminals will have the weapons to harm and get away with their devious acts on innocent persons. Just look at what has been happening in Portland. It has been almost 60 days and those demons are still causing chaos and destruction! Our Children will need some law enforcement officer in our schools. In this world of unpredictable dangers we need law enforcement in all places. This is how I feel about keeping law enforcement within our schools and cities. Susan Marie Scott

Peggy	Matthews		Chesapeake	Police in schools and defunding police depts	<p>At this very turbulent times we must protect our children I</p> <p>It is important to have police officers in our schools as we do not who or what group may enter a school to hurt the students and staff. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that we DO NOT defund our police departments - they are the group that protects us as citizens. I know my tax money goes for a lot of different things but this is the one thing we MUST NOT TAKE FUNDS FROM. Their job is very hard and they have low pay - we ask them everyday to put their lives on the line for us. When they leave home there is no guarantee they will return.</p>
Charles	Perkins		Mechanicsville	Treatment of Police Officers	<p>Why does the Democratic Party support lawlessness. I could cite many instances such as support for people who are in our country ILLEGALLY yet you reward them with state driver's licenses. However, the issue at hand pertains to treatment of police officers. Who ever would believe that our elected officials would treat the only people who stand between peaceful citizens and anarchy so badly. The ideas that are being considered such as reducing penalties for attacks on police, reducing police budgets and removing police officers from schools are absurd at best. These kind of actions place bounties on the heads of the police and protect the anarchists. It will get to the point no one in their right mind will want to be a policeman or policewoman. Also, we put the police in our schools to protect our children from mass shootings. Perhaps the Democratic party no longer cares if helpless children are mass murdered in our schools! The only explanation I can come up with for this kind of thinking is that Democrats stand for an overthrow of our country as we know it with an ushering in of your Marxist. You guys are really making me and many of the friends I have spoken to extremely mad, to put it very mildly. It is your job to protect the people you represent and if you cannot do it I, for one, will have to take steps to protect myself. Anyone who cannot get on board with full support of our police absolutely disgusts me. Evidently this is what we will have to accept as the new normal for our country so the millions of misinformed and misled people will flock to big brother for help and then our corrupt leaders will have full control of our lives from the womb to the tomb.</p>
Christina	James		Emporia		<p>I support this bill..My husband Shaheed James# 1015960 has worked hard for 24 yrs and deserves a second chance to give back to society..He belongs home with his family..</p>
April	Strepke		Campbell Co	Meetings 7-29-20 concerning law enforcement	<p>Police should not be removed from schools. There could be more school shootings. Penalties for breaking the law should not be reduced. The police need our support, not a cut in salaries or in numbers trying to protect us. Jail times for offenders should not be reduced, this only encourages more law breaking. Gov. Northam's ideas are not going to help Virginia be a safe place to live. Democratic support of political leaders in big cities has led to much destruction and extended rioting. Freedom of speech, yes, freedom to destroy other people's property, no. Who is going to help the business people who have had property damage because of rioting in big cities?</p>
Kenya	Gadsden	My family	Chesapeake	Criminal Justice Reform/ Good time credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
Marquita	Waff		Franklin	Legislation to expand earned sentence credits	<p>Hello, I'm writing to encourage you to pass the legislation to expand earned sentence credits, for ALL incarcerated individuals. During these scary times it's needed, it's impossible to social distance locked inside of a building with hundreds of others during this pandemic. My husband, Marlon Waff, was charged with a nonviolent crime and we have worked extremely hard to ensure he never goes back to any crime. Marlon deserves a 2nd chance, as we all do. Let's not forget about the well-being of ALL of VA's citizens, including our love ones who have no voice right now. Thank you.</p>
Seth	Watson	self	Aldie, VA	Support for the expansion of earned sentence credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. My dear friend was accused of a serious crime that he did not commit, but was buried under stacked charges, and coerced through a full year in solitary confinement, into pleading out despite his innocence. Despite that, he has been an outstanding contributor and model individual while serving. He and others who have worked hard to be a good people during their time behind bars deserve a second chance. Thank you.</p>
JAMES	STADELMAIER	VCDDL	CHARLOTTESVILLE	Law Officers	<p>I believe that handicapping the police with reduced budgets, removing law enforcement from schools and decreasing penalties for assaulting police officers will embolden criminals. Along reducing the mandatory minimums. This makes me more vulnerable to criminals.</p> <p>Why do you want crime to increase? You are responsible to keep me safe!</p>
Margie	Howell	citizen	Charlottesville VA	School Resources	<p>Let's not throw out the baby with the bath water. The majority of students & parents & teachers find it reassuring and helpful to have friendly unbiased police officers in their schools...</p> <p>Yes, they must be accountable for their actions, and the bad apples must be weeded out...but in this era of school shootings, why would we not have officers available in each school??? To remove them makes our children & others "soft" targets for murder.</p> <p>Another unwise decision has been to limit the number of nurses in the schools over the past years. To keep our children, their families and staff safe, we need health resources within each school to prevent the spread of viruses, to teach good health practices, good nutrition, safety measures, etc to ensure long term improved community health.</p> <p>"Overcorrection" of problems can lead to even worse problems than those we are trying to remedy... please do not yield common sense to the loudest, most extreme voices. It takes strength of character to stand up to the mob ...please do not be the representative for extremists only. Please consider the more rational members of your constituencies as you ponder the best course to take in your deliberations. We will be watching you....that is not a threat but a reminder that we will hold you accountable to us voters as you tackle these difficult decisions.</p> <p>Thank you for listening... A concerned senior citizen of Virginia</p>

Elaine	Krehbiel	Hillsville	Abolishing mandatory minimum sentences	<p>Totally against and asking for a no vote to abolish the mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes. Also cutting police budgets, taking officers out of schools helps no one. These rules of law and budgets are in everyone's best interest. We are a country of laws! There are bad cops but they are few and far between and all this destruction and violence over a few bad apples is ridiculous and contemptuous. When the Muslim terrorists took down the twin towers, the response was "don't judge all Muslims by what a few did" and the same rule needs to be applied to our law enforcement. What if American citizens had rioted and murdered the same number of Muslims and Muslim communities as has been done to our law enforcement.</p> <p>Sincerely, Elaine Krehbiel</p>
darnice	martin	Virginia Beach	Earned Sentence Credits	<p>I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.</p>
Barbara	Barrett	Very concerned citizen and voter!	Crozet	<p>Proposed changes affecting Law enforcement issues</p> <p>In light of what's happening in America these past months I STRONGLY urge you to NOT defund Police Budgets. With the efforts that have happened in our past to make our communities more safe with more well trained and dedicated police officers, it is obvious that the results have proved adequately it was WELL worth the dollars spent.</p> <p>Because of the past history of school violence in some schools across America in a few states, I believe that it is VITAL to continue having law enforcement officers in our schools. One of our most precious assets in our world are our children and we MUST do whatever it takes to keep them safe. DO NOT SUPPORT decreasing penalties on people who assault a law enforcement officer. People who attack a law officer should be PUNISHED to the fullest extent of the law.</p> <p>DO NOT let a VERY FEW individuals (radicals) undermine the few things in our world that KEEP US SAFE!!!!</p>
Niurka	Gonzalez		Cumberland	<p>Earned Credit</p> <p>Hello I am asking on behalf of my fiancé and I! Patrick J Hawkins. We ask that you pass the bill, I plead with you to consider that Loved ones who have done their time and have done all they can in the rehabilitation process, that stay out of trouble, attend all the classes offered and work to earn good time be released! Amongst this Covid 19 our loved ones were not sentenced to death and I beg you see that some are really working towards coming home! Family support is there and I have started a business so Patrick will be employed! Please again take into consideration all Loved ones who realized the error of their ways and took steps to earn this Good time Credit! I have known Mr. Hawkins over 30 years and we were approved to be married 4/24/2020 however Covid hit. When I used to visit I heard Correctional Officers say how he was doing the right thing. I again ask you pass this bill!</p> <p>Thanking you in advance! Niurka Gonzalez</p>
Joanne	Sanders		Prince William	<p>Criminal Justice: Sentence Credits</p> <p>I urge you to require expedition of the early release process for inmates with less than one year left of their sentence, as passed during the special April 2020 legislative session. I am concerned my loved one may not make it home, and he has less than 9 months left of his sentence to serve. It would be THE WORST if he died in prison of a virus when he could be released to come home a few months early. The legislation passed for early release by the governor this past April was very misleading, causing many to assume that approximately 2000 inmates would be eligible for "immediate release", but none of those 2000 were released "immediately". Actually, to date—nearly 3 months later—less than 600 have been released early, and the DOC states they currently are only working on those with a release date in Oct 2020, but the number of cases continues to rise. Our loved ones deserve more compassion.</p> <p>I urge you consider additional sentence credits for those serving time in prisons without air conditioning. Temps in many facilities are inhumane, reaching well over 90 degrees inside. Our loved ones are already being punished, why should they suffer additional punishment and illness because the Commonwealth is unable to provide adequate cooling in many prisons?</p> <p>Finally, I urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all. Social distancing is impossible, and the conditions in our prisons right now are unimaginable. Expanding earned sentence credits would be a viable solution, allowing many to come home and help during unprecedented times. Please consider the well-being of all of Virginia's citizens and pass this legislation as originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session. Thank you.</p>
Debra	Hodges	Mrs.	Rocky Mount	<p>Early release of my sons</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my sons Dale Eric Chisom Jr and Rebel Hodges are good kids and needs to be home with us during this time. I need them more since their father died; their children need them. The family needs them! Thank you. My health isn't good; their grandparents health hasn't been good. Please pass this law, much un-justice was done to my sons. I am hoping to see and have time with them. The safety of my son Eric has already been a concern now they both are subjected to this virus in the prisons.</p> <p>Concerned mother Debra Hodges</p>

					Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:
					Crime escalated exponentially during the late 1960's and throughout the 1970's. Mandatory minimum sentences were introduced because people were often not sentenced for prison time even after committing serious offenses. This action, along with the abolishment of parole, and ensuring we have enough prison capacity have dramatically reduced the crime rate compared to those troubled times. Why change something that has proven effective over the long term? One need only to look at New York City and State--where under a new law most people arrested are released immediately after arrest--to see how detrimental that would be to maintain law and order here in Virginia.
Mark	Crean		Henrico	Mandatory Minimum Sentences	It may be prudent to review the current minimums to ensure they are reasonable, but let's not create a huge societal problem by abolishing what works.
Gary Alan	Turner	Restore Justice in Virginia	Harrisonburg	Pass Expansion of Earned Sentence Credits for Everyone	I am writing to tell you that I support passage of the Earned Sentence Good Time Credits Bill sponsored by Del Scott and Senator Boysko. People should be allowed to earn their early release by the behaviors they show while behind bars. This bill must apply to ALL.
Verita	DeVaughn		Richmond		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiancé was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Ca'Nyiah	Ware		Richmond		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My step-father was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Jacquetta	Smallwood		Virginia Beach		I support raising the Good Time Earning Credits for ALL!
Whitney	Wilson		Portsmouth	August Special Session	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my husband (Carlos Wilson) who has been away for the past 10 1/2 years is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Keegan	Brenneman		Arlington	Expand Earned Sentence Credit	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my brother during this COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my brother to come home where he can help us during these bizarre times. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
DAVID	HARNED	Mr.	Richmond and Henrico counties	law,order, accountability and justice	The "Cancel Culture" movement has clearly been well organized and funded. It is a blatant "in your face" power grab designed to undermine the historic character and nature of America. The radical left is clearly testing and challenging the strength and resolve of our laws and willingness to enforce them. Caving in to their tactics will only serve to further embolden these anarchists. Make no mistake about their motives. Those of us who have served honorably in the U.S. Military made a solemn oath to protect our country against ALL enemies, both foreign and domestic. There is no expiration date on this pledge. We need to protect the 2nd Amendment and stand tall and united against all enemies. We should take a very careful and thorough examination of those organizations which are aggressively pursuing "culture change" and hold those individuals accountable who are engaged in anarchy and treason.
Martin	Simpkins		Mechanicsville	Law enforcement officers, Commonwealth Attorneys and Judges, and mandatory minimums	I would like to see armed officers at all schools to guarantee the safety of all our children. Also, community policing has been highly effective in the past and might need to be increased at this time. I think the police should get raises due to all the abuse they are encountering these days. Please keep the mandatory sentence minimums for those who assault a police officer, or a teacher, with a weapon, murder a policeman, or rape a child aged 12 or under and so on. Thanks!
Carl	Beuchert		Troy	Law Enforcement, policing, police budgets	I cannot imagine the severe impact current efforts to limit and defund our law enforcement will have in my state, especially with the current lawlessness and rioting. Combine those with new state laws to restrict our 2nd amendment and natural rights of self-defense by our Democrat controlled governorship, senate, house of delegates, and attorney general and I believe absolute power, in an oppressive way, is beginning to arrive at my doorstep. I hope and pray that common sense returns before anarchy is here.
Jacquetta	Smallwood		Virginia Beach	Credits for time served for inmates	Example 1: Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my fiancée is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. .
Amy	Puryear		Petersburg	Earned Credit Bill	I support the earned sentence good time bill, may I please have your support as well.

Barbara	Miller		Augusta, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one, my son during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Plus I have been very sick and need my son home to help me. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Jose	Pereira		Prince William county		I myself am a violent felon and I've adopted to society greatly so just because a person committed and act of violence doesn't mean they shouldn't be treated like non violent felons we are also human and deserve rights from the judicial system not just a certain few but all inmates should be treated the same
Breonna	Morris	Healing Hearts	Madison Heights	Expand earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration Fiancé and family incarcerated are good people and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Shaquita	Wagner		Norfolk	Justice Reform	Please pass Legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should give most incentive to be better people. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you
Christopher M	Lloyd		Glen Allen	Mandatory Minimum Sentencing	Thank you for providing this forum for the average citizen to participate in your Committee deliberations. I favor mandatory minimum sentencing for a wide variety of heinous and egregious crimes including, murder, rape, vicious aggravated assault, crimes against children and clergy, assaulting a police officer (including Sheriff, fire fighters and EMTs), assaulting teachers, and assaulting a wide variety of local, state, federal elected officials. While some judicial latitude is encouraged in the mandatory sentencing process, I strongly believe that mandatory sentencing acts as a deterrent in the commission of these acts. For those who do and those who do not understand the impact of a deterrent, mandatory sentence keeps dangerous individuals off the streets where repeat occurrences are likely. The brutal and often vicious act of assault, rape, murder pose a real, present and absolutely intolerable danger to the fabric of our society, a threat we simply cannot tolerate.
Joann	Hodges		Franklin County, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my grandson's are good people and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Archie	Hodges Sr		Franklin County, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my grandson's are good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
John O.	Trammell	Self	Fredericksburg	Law enforcement officers (community-engaged policing, bias, and hate crime), Commonwealth Attorneys and Judges (bias), and mandatory minimums."	I understand that certain radical activists want you to abolish mandatory minimum sentences which require that defendants convicted of certain offenses receive at least the listed "mandatory minimum" jail sentence. Mandatory minimums cover various crimes, including many serious offenses like assaulting a teacher with a weapon, murdering a policeman, and raping a child aged 12 or under. There is also a mandatory minimum sentence for assaulting a police officer. Criminals understand the potential sentences they currently face for committing such crimes. What do you expect will happen to public safety by abolishing minimum sentences for those convicted of such crimes? How will justice be served for the teachers, children or police officers and their families who become victims of such crimes? Why would you even consider abolishing minimum sentences when you most certainly are aware that the result will be an increase in assaults, rapes and murders? How do you expect our police and sheriff deputies to maintain law and order and to safely arrest criminals if they know the criminals are going to be let go anyway? As elected officials of the state legislature, your primary responsibility is to protect and ensure justice for the law-abiding citizens of Virginia who pay your salary. You were not elected to pander to "progressive" activists whose goal is to abolish law and order and the destroy American culture.
Joanna	Brown		Hampton	Prison reform	I want the good time earned sentence credit passed. Removing resource officers from schools is not a good idea. To do so is tantamount to willful endangerment of students, teachers, and staff by the legislature.
David	Ahearn		Fluvanna	Police and minimum sentences	Removing minimum sentences is tantamount to willful endangerment of citizens, old and young. Police are the first line of defense between law and order and lawlessness. Stand strong and do what's right to protect and support our citizens and civil servants. Inhibiting, defunding, and inadequate resourcing of our police will lower readiness and morale, compromising Virginia's security. Virginia needs to continue to be a great state, a national example for other states and nations to emulate.
Virginia	Burton		Williamsburg, Virginia	Expand earned sentence credit for all	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiancé was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Kathy	Chisom		Franklin County, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my husband is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Reva	Jackson		AMISSVILLE	Earned Sentence Credit	I believe that most inmates are capable of redeeming themselves. To that end I support the Earned Sentence Credit legislation.

Deborah	Sams		Salem	Law Enforcement and more minimum sentencing	I am against abolishing minimum sentencing. I am for our Law Enforcement Officers and support their protection in every way.
Linda	Sessor		Franklin County, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my son-in-law is a good person and needs to be home with his wife and children during this time. Thank you.
Kelly	Coalter		Cleveland	Good Time Credits for (ALL) Offenders.	This is very important to me. I'm the mom of a son who is presently incarcerated in the VA DOC. He was unjustly pressured into accepting a plea agreement under the threat of a much longer sentence. He has applied himself while being incarcerated (no charges, enrolled in college with excellent GPA, job on the maintenance team, well respected among the staff, etc.). I strongly support the good time earned credit, not just for my son, but for ALL offenders. It is the right thing to do!
Tim	Coalter	Personal	Cleveland	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	I am an Executive Leader for our church denomination in North America. My son is presently incarcerated in the VA DOC. He has had a stellar record since being sentenced in 2014 (i.e. no charges, enrolled in college with excellent GPA, job on the maintenance team, well-respected among the staff, etc). My son was pressured to accept a plea agreement under the threat of a much longer sentence. I strongly support the Good Time Earned Credit, not just for my son, but for ALL offenders. It is the right thing to do in the pursuit of justice.
Martha	Dudley		Madison	"Mandatory minimum" jail sentences	I remember that mandatory minimum jail sentences were instituted in response to the criticism that judges gave more lenient sentences to white criminals than to black criminals. The mandatory minimum was deemed to take the discretionary power from judges and make sure that all criminals served the same sentence for similar crimes. To abandon that sentencing procedure would be a step backward and give more power to the judge who may use racial or agenda driven politics in their sentencing. This was deemed to be unfair in the past and nothing has changed which would have changed this.
Natalie	Slaw		Nelson	Good Time Earned Credits	I am in full support of Good Time Earned Credits for *ALL* offenders.
Cassandra	Winston	The Humanization protect	Chesterfield	Pass Good Time credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. Especially when the offender has been rehabilitating to get prepared for society. My finance' is a mentor while being incarcerated. He's completed several trades. He has to do 85percent of his time and have been incarcerated for 24years. He's not eligible for parole. We have 9 grandkids that prayfully soon wishes to see their grandfather in person. With this bill passed! It would be a wonderful Thanksgiving /Christmas present for my entire family. Thank you for your time.
Ronda	Greene		Brunswick	Good time	In support of good time for ALL offenders.
Mike	Sheridan		Fluvanna County	Defunding the police and mandatory minimum sentencing	I guess people are having trouble remembering all of the school shootings that have rocked our world. I'm a 33 year teacher and I think about it every day. Our resource officers provide us with a first line of defense. In a rural county the response time will be at least 10 minutes. That means we are by ourselves with no defense. When I came down to Richmond for local government day I noticed all of the additional security in place. Does this mean you feel like the members of our government are more important than the children. We need to stop playing politics and start serving all members of our society. The day you defund the police and remove resource officers from our schools I would hope you would have already done this for yourselves. I have many former students and players who have chosen to serve their community as law enforcement officers. The thought of reducing penalties for people who assault them is ludicrous. Let's compare the number of officers killed to the number of government officials killed. Yet when you increased your security it was those officers, that some are calling to defund who willingly placed themselves in harms way. It is time for our leaders to start using common sense and stop trying to take advantage of a bad situation. We tried living without law enforcement in this country. It was called the Wild West. Don't allow special interest groups to push you into making decisions with far reaching consequences. Respectfully yours, Mike Sheridan Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Fluvanna County
Dale	Anderson	Mrs.	Virginia Beach	Treatment of Police	The vast majority of police in our country serve our communities well. Yes, there are a few bad actors, but I believe it is wrong headed to punish the whole for the crimes of the few. Rather than defunding the police, we should be paying them more so that we can attract better people to become police officers and provide them with the training they need to do their incredibly dangerous and difficult job well. As it stands, I cannot see why any good person would want to be a policeman and that is an horrendous shame! We are already seeing the price paid by citizens when the police are so repressed that they are unable or unwilling to do their jobs and there is no one left to keep the peace. If this trend continues, we will see increased chaos and the breakdown of our society. You will force private citizens into vigilantism in order to keep themselves and their families safe. Please treat the police better than this. We actually do need them as is evidenced by the rise of violence sweeping our cities.
Sarah	Woodward		Mcgaheysville	Earned Sentence Credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my loved one is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Zuleika	Flores		Roanoke	Earned credits	Hi. I'm writing this brief written feedback to state how I am in support of passing bill 1532 for the good time earned credits for all offenders. My husband has been incarcerated now for 17 years on a 38 year sentence he committed at the age of 19. He takes all accountability and responsibility for the robbery he committed but no one was hurt during the crime just money taken. he is now 36 and has self rehabilitated his self into a grown, changed man. We have a business together, he has several books available on Amazon and helps others self-publish as well. He has a certificate with Blackstone career institute as a paralegal; amongst other things. He amongst many other incarcerated individuals deserve the earned time credits to be passed so they can get home to their loved ones and show the change they've done to their community.
Richard	Gallagher	Dr.	Ruckersville	Defunding police	Defunding police invites anarchy and advances the Marxist revolution to overthrow our Republic. "Who you gonna call when you get attacked? "

Veriti	Overby		Kettering Ohio	Earned Sentence Credits	Having a loved one who is incarcerated in Virginia and knowing the current earned sentence credit system, I am in favor of the changes proposed for ALL offenders in Virginia to reward ALL inmates who have had good behavior, especially those who have had good behavior for multiple years in a row. Respectfully submitted. Ms. Veriti Overby
Aimee	Jackson		Rockingham	Good time credited for inmates	I have family members who need to get back into society. And help take care of there kids 85% is to long. To many years between there kids I am in support of Good Time Earned Credits for *ALL* offenders.
Renee	Sutton		Muscle Shoals	Earned Credits	
Brian	Sutton		Muscle Shoals	Good time Earned credits	I believe in legislation that allows good time credit for ALL offenders. Prison systems are overcrowded and inmates who rehabilitate should be released early to ease overcrowding and allow them back into society, as good citizens.
					Thank you for your consideration of, what I believe to be, a very important issue. For many years the issue of incarceration has carried both the weight of punishment for offense, but also for correction of behavior. In most cases, the ultimate goal is for the incarcerated to be a productive citizen upon release from incarceration. My nephew is currently incarcerated in the Virginia DOC. He was, in my opinion, unduly pressured by his attorney to accept a plea agreement under the threat of a longer sentence if he did not. During his incarceration he has been an exemplary prisoner, seeking to better himself through educational opportunities as well as work opportunities afforded him in prison. Many of the staff at his facility have commented on his character, work ethic, and cooperation. If the goal of incarceration is to help those in our facilities become productive citizens upon their release, then certainly good time earned credit for all offenders should be given consideration as well. It demonstrates that the individual is demonstrating what we hope to see in all of our citizens.
Duke	Stone		Terry, MS	Good Time Earned Credit for *ALL* Offenders	Thank you for your time.
Florine	Tillery		Henrico	Earned sentence crediting	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Thomas	Lydon		Alexandria, VA & Columbus, OH	HB1532 - Incentivise positive behaviour	Please pass Delegate Scott's bill, HB 1532, during the upcoming special session. This legislation will expand EARNED sentence credits for ALL behind bars. Lengthy prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, and community. Let us assist the Virginia Department of Corrections with incentives for incarcerated people to be productive returning citizens. Please give the people behind bars a second chance by expanding EARNED sentence credit for positive and productive behavior. Thank you.
Tristan	Jones		Newport News	Good Time Earned acredit	I am in support of Good Time Earned Credits for *ALL* offenders. It
Charlotte	Adams	Personal	Crawford	Good Time Earned Credit for All Offenders	The son of a dear friend is incarcerated and was persuaded to accept a plea deal that was excessive. This young man has a wonderful record as an inmate. He has displayed exemplary compliance with the regulations. I am in support of the Good Time Earned Credit for All Offenders. This will allow the inmates that have exhibited good conduct an opportunity to have a reduction in sentence. This is an incredible incentive.
Rick	Lee	Personal	BILLINGS	Good Time Earned Credit For All Offenders	I am in full support for Good Time Earned CreditFir All Offenders
Theresa	Lee	Personal	Billings	Good Time Earned Credit For ALL Offenders	
Jessica	V		Manassas		I am in support of Good TimeEarned Credit for ALL offenders
					I support the expansion of earned sentence credits for all inmates who work to earn those credits. There is no question that we should take a look at some minimum sentences, mainly because they are too often used by the courts and prosecutors against minority groups in this country. But we should be very careful about adjusting and/or removing protection from our law enforcement officers. These brave people put their lives on the line every day, and while there is serious doubt that these sentences stop a person from attacking an LEO, they do show that we the law-abiding citizens will not stand for the criminal element attacking them, and if they do so there will be consequences. To remove these additional sentences guidelines instead sends the message that you do not support our LEO and also shows that you do not support the citizens that they work to protect. Instead, you are sending a message that you stand with the criminal element in our society that insists on waging war against those that you swore to protect and represent.
Frederic	Boisseau		S. Chesterfield	Criminal Justice Reform - Reducing/Eliminating minimum sentences for assulting a law enforcement officer	Thank you Frederic L. Boisseau Janet Lee
Aleta	White		Northumberland	Prison Reform & end mass incarceration	Example 1: Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my love one is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
joan	stubbs		LAKE PEEKSKILL	expand earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration. My nephew is a good & caring person, eager to help, and needs to be home. Thank you.
Kelsey	Williams		Mcgaheysville	Good time earned credit for inmates	Trying to get this approved by August 2020.
Charity	Davis		Alexandria	Good Time earned credit for all offenders	I am In support of good time credit earned for ALL offenders .

Jeannie	Campbell	Good time earned credits	Waynesboro	Good time earning credits for everyone	I am for good time earned credits for everyone
Richard	Ferguson Jr		Franklin County, VA	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my soon to be Father-in-law is a good person and needs to be home with his wife and children during this time. Thank you.
Laura	Gonzales		Winchester		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you
Carolyn	Bradfield		Winchester		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you
Joseph	Dillon	My Family	Stafford	Law Enforcement Changes, and Particular, Reducing the charge for Assault on Police to a Misd.	I am a life long Virginia resident. I became a police officer when I turned 21 and served 35 years as an officer. If policing were not an honorable profession, I would not have spent my adult life giving to and serving in it. While I know the dangers faced by officers across the COMMONWEALTH EVERY DAY and know the sacrifices the career takes in one's health and personal life, I still recommended to my youngest son when he left the Army after he expressed an interest in becoming a police officer, that it was an honorable profession and worthy of his consideration. He became a police officer 4 years ago in the same Department I served. The idea that some politicians, many of whom know very little about the profession, could actually BELIEVE police organizations in Virginia are not striving to do the best possible professional service to their citizens is outrageous. Much more likely it is believed to be good "politics". The overwhelming majority of those protecting are freedoms as officers could not be better people, doing courageous work. I believe almost all of those on the Committee KNOW this. If you continue to disparage police officers and work to make their service less safe, encourage physical assault and injury by reducing the charge of assault to a Misdemeanor, then you will turn away those with the best intentions from the career. Others will leave to serve in other ways. It will become a job that only those with no other choices will take. What kind of policing will you expect then? WHO DOES that impact? It negatively impacts the most vulnerable and weakest in our society. The past six months have made me regret my advice to my son. Please don't make me regret it more.
Garrett	Chappell		Vinton	Good Time Earned Credits	I want to say that I do support Good Time Earned Credits for ALL offenders. Thank you!!! us Greetings Delegates and Senators:
Jennifer	Surratt		City of Richmond	Police Brutality	I am writing to voice my concerns about the escalating attacks on press and peaceably assembled protestors in the City of Richmond (and across our Commonwealth). The attacks on First Amendment rights by a militarized police force are deeply concerning and should trouble us all. Violence and intimidation are tactics that escalate and promote cultures of violence. The actions of police occur with impunity regularly and disproportionately negatively impact Black and brown people in our state. It is time to re-examine and limit the role of policing in our society. We do have the resources and money to meet the needs of our community and in many cases - address the root causes of the challenges that lead to police intervention. However, we cannot do that when we continue to spend more and more money on police departments and military grade weaponry. It's time to examine our priorities, explore alternative approaches and commit to safety for ALL citizens in our Commonwealth.
Blaine	Morgan		The Colony	Good Time Earned Credits	I am in support of Good Time Earned Credits for *ALL* offenders.
Shirley	McClary		Albemarle	Expansion of earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Holly	Chappell		Vinton	Good Time Earned Credits	I do support good time earned credits for all offenders.
Tim	McCaleb		Cleveland	Good time earned credit for all offenders	I am a church denominational executive leader. I strongly support ALL inmates receiving GOOD TIME EARNED CREDIT. I think it is extremely important for good behavior to be rewarded. It returns productive people back into society, provides needed workers that will also pay taxes, and saves tax dollars by reducing those on prison roles.
Jean	Carlton	Christian	Sterling	Increasing the amount of Good Time Credits for all offenders	I support increasing the amount of Good Time Credits that ALL offenders can earn. Offenders should EARN this time off their sentence, it is not GIVEN to them. In return, this will create safer prisons, a safer work environment for staff and will undoubtedly restore HOPE for offenders and their families. Long sentences, without hope of parole or even increased Good Time Credits, tends to dehumanize and discourage offenders. Those who have accepted responsibility for their offenses and have exhibited a desire for a second chance to prove they want to become productive citizens by preparing themselves through counseling, job training & education available to them. A rehabilitated individual with hope for the future is less of a threat to society when released and will result in reduced recidivism and save taxpayer money. I encourage you to consider increasing the amount of Good Time Credits for ALL who genuinely desire a second chance.
Judy	Schall		Botetourt County, Fincastle	Good Times Credits for (ALL) Offenders	I am Judy Schall, the State Bishop's wife for the Virginia Church of God. My husband and I are friends with a young man who was pressured to accepting a plea agreement with the threat of a sentence of many more years of incarceration if he did not accept the agreement. While visiting him in the Va DOC, the staff and guards always had good remarks about his behavior and attitude. He has gone back to college and works on the maintenance team. He has never caused a problem and works well with everyone. I strongly support the good time earned credit for ALL offenders. It's called giving a second chance, and we all deserve a second chance. GOOD TIME CREDIT has given so many hope of a better life. I strongly support this. We are praying this passes.

Sherri	Brown		Fairfax		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
Lawrence	Loyd		Henrico	Anarchy and City Destruction	<p>It is imperative that we take action to stop the rioting and burning of our cities. An attack or armed assault on any Municipal, State or Federal facility or employee will result in arrest with no release or bail and minimum mandatory of no less than a 10 year, sentence. Peaceful protest must end by 7PM and any gathering after that time will be addressed as Intent To Cause Destruction and those participating will be charged with a misdemeanor crime. Second arrest results in mandatory jail time and third arrest results in prison time. It is time to send a message to the organizations that Law and Order will be maintained.</p>
Linda	Bogar		Covington	Lawerencville	<p>Safety is a big issue at this facility my son was seriously injured in an attack on July 18 and had to undergo surgery to reconstruct his jaw it is now wired shut and he tested positive for the Coronavirus he is not getting adequate medical care nor is he getting proper nutrition he has not had a shower in over week due to the water issues at this in humane facility I have been told by the Warden he will be put in restricted housing for his protection why should he be isolated isolate the ones who did thi to him he was in his cell and another inmate came in and tracked my son no guards were present in this pod I have contacted numerous people and we need help for these inmates</p>
Sherri	Williams		Alexandria	Good Time Bill	<p>I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.</p>
Connie	Shaw		Suffolk	Good Time Earning Credits at Virginia DOC	<p>Without hesitation, I am writing in support of legislation to increase the good time earning credits at the Virginia DOC. It is long overdue to be revised. All those who are incarcerated and have not gotten into any trouble, no new charges while incarcerated, those who have the lowest security rating - CL-1, and SL score with -negative points, and particularly those who have worked to improve themselves (i.e., classes, college courses, certifications, trainings, seminars, etc.) while incarcerated, have proven themselves to be rehabilitated and ready for re-entry into society.</p>
Diane	Lanning		Magnolia, Texas		<p>Please increase the good time earning credits in the VADOC and give these people a chance to start their life over and prove to the world they can be honest productive citizens! Thank you.</p>
Sheena	McCaleb	Personal	Cleveland	Good Time Credit for ALL offenders	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my son is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
Wendi	Darby		Roanoke	Mandatory Minimums	<p>I feel that any and all offenders who have exhibited good behavior while incarcerated should be looked at for parole and should receive credit towards time served. I am in support of the Good Time Credit for ALL offenders.</p> <p>Mandatory minimums need to stay in place. It is ridiculous to give criminals a slap on the hand for certain crimes. I personally do not feel that anyone should be allowed to commit crimes without have a mandatory minimum just because of race, color, gender, sex, or creed. I am able to follow the law and I also understand that if I break the law then there are consequences to my actions. Why should anyone be allowed to break the law while performing a heinous crime (i.e. including many serious offenses like assaulting a teacher with a weapon, murdering a policeman, raping a child aged 12 or under, an assaulting a police offer) without a mandatory minimum? It doesn't make any sense. Everyone needs to be held accountable for their actions. At this rate, we are going to enter into a lawless community. I pay taxes and expect to be protected by the laws but without common sense laws (i.e. mandatory minimums) then I guess the state of Virginia is not concerned for their law abiding citizens including the children and police officers.</p> <p>This is ridiculous. I can guarantee NO CONGRESS PERSON in Virginia would put their life on the line and become a police officer but they are willing to throw police officers under the bus. I am saddened with the way things are going in our communities because Congress feels that criminals should be allowed minimum sentences, if any, because they come from poor backgrounds, don't have a job, color, etc. I was raised poor by a single mother and yet I NEVER thought of committing a crime just because.</p> <p>The idea that Virginia and other states even consider giving criminals a free pass because of a few bad police officers is completely ridiculous. There are more good cops then bad cops but they are all being lumped together. A lot can be said about city, state, and federal officials. Just because there is a bad congress person, doesn't mean the whole lot is bad. It is disgusting to think that anyone actually thinks that way. If you are so bent on defunding the police and removing minimum mandatory sentences because of a few bad apples, then are you also in agreement that if there is a few bad senators, representatives, mayors, governors, etc. that all should be defunded? I don't think anyone of you would agree to that, however it is the same idea.</p> <p>Defunding the police and removing minimum mandatory sentencing is telling the criminals and activists that you are willing to bend at their will. What about law abiding citizens who don't want to see the police defunded and don't want to see the mandatory minimum sentences removed/reduced? What are you doing for us? Just because we are not protesting doesn't mean we should be thrown to the side. The idea that Virginia is willing to bend with the activists doesn't appear to me as serving the best interest of EVERYONE but only serving the demands of the loudest and the few.</p> <p>Please reconsider the idea of removing/reducing the minimum mandatory or even defunding the police.</p>
Joe	Lanning		Magnolia Texas		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my son is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
TJ	Machacek Jr.		Magnolia Texas		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>

Virginia	Escamilla		Needville Texas		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my grandson is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
					There are good people that have made mistakes or have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. They deserve this opportunity to get out and back to their lives that have so much left them behind so long as they have been doing the right thing and bettering themselves as they have been serving their time
Shaun ora	Fleming cline		Suffolk greenville nc	earned sentence credits	There are good people that have made mistakes or have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. They deserve this opportunity to get out and back to their lives that have so much left them behind so long as they have been doing the right thing and bettering themselves as they have been serving their time!! Dear Joint Committee, I support earned sentence credits for all.
Robert	Shaw		Suffolk	Good Time Earning Credits for the Virginia DOC	I strongly support the Good Time Earning Credits. It is a very long time over due. We have to take a serious look and the prison system here in Virginia.
Rachel	Wilson		Prince George Loudoun County	Good time credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiancé Robert pirzad was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all.
Kaitlyn Kerry	Hammond Hammond		Fairfax County	Good time earned credits	I support good time earned credits for all offenders I support good time earned credits for all offenders.
Henry	Vasquez		Arlington		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Juan	Novillo		Arlington		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Ave Ashley	Zamichieli Durham	My famkt, mankind	Philadelphia richmond	Goodtime Credit Bill for Incarcerated People	I support this bill with every ounce of my strength. I pray the Sweet Lord who knows the number of hairs on each dead will guide you to have faith in our brothers and sisters and give them hope. Thank you very much. I support good time earned credits for all offenders!!!
Melvin	Argueta		Arlington		I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Nelson	Amaya		Arlington		Example 3: I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Jennifer	Davis		Nelson county	Expand earned sentence Credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Husband is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.

Kristina	Critzer	Nelson county	Expand earned sentence credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Step Dad (not biologically my father, but he raised me my entire life) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Jose	Vasquez	Arlington		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Leticia	Vasquez	Arlington		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Allyssa	Machacek	Magnolia Texas		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother-in-law is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Tanya	Bull	Hampton		I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
John	Bland	Manassas City	Law enforcement officers (community-engaged policing, bias, and hate crime), Commonwealth Attorneys and Judges (bias), and mandatory minimums."	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>I write this letter through the eyes of an 8 yr old boy who is now a 61 year old man.</p> <p>I watched my father who was a 30 yr Veteran of the Syracuse NY Police Dept, head off for duty with his Riot Gear through the years of 1967-72 during the Civil Rights Protests, and Vietnam Protests at Syracuse University. Dad was frequently gone for 2-3 days at a time, I spent many years awake during the summers while he was off protecting the citizens of Syracuse, as were one of my paternal uncles, who one was also a Police Officer and the other who was a Firefighter. Oh yeah, and the neighbors sent their children to our house to throw rocks and bottles through our windows, because, my dad was a Police Officer.</p> <p>Today, many of our politicians are looking to DEFUND POLICE DEPT budgets, in NY State they've changed the laws to eliminate Bail for many serious crimes and DEFUND POLICE DEPT'S. , looks like we're headed down those paths here in Virginia. I implore that you members of the House of Delegates, look at the death and violence happening in other states and here in Virginia step up to the plate and use some common sense and look out for the safety of our communities and children.</p> <p>There are thousands of children in our state whose parents are First Responders, as what I've written to you from the perspective that has stayed with me since I was 8 yrs old. I'll share one short memory from Christmas 1969, my father gave my brother and I PIG watches, and my sisters PIG Jewelry. Written on the watches and jewelry was PIG, PRIDE-INTEGRITY AND GUTS. I am proud to this day to have been the child of a Police Officer and grateful for all of the men and women that Today, put their lives on the line for the citizens of Virginia.</p> <p>Do what you were elected to do on behalf of the citizens of Virginia and in particular all of the families of our First Responders. Grow a pair!!!!</p>
Brittney	Kidd	Nelson		I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Rachel	Callahan	Nelson		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My friend Cliff and his wife, Jenny has been affected by mass incarceration, Cliff is a loving husband, caring father and amazing friend and needs to be home with his family during this time. Thank you.
Nancy	Flippen	Mechanicsville	Mandatory sentencing	Please protect students and keep police in schools. Keep mandatory sentences.
Karen	CNM	Rocky Mount	Penalty for assaulting a police officer	Because police officers are citizens like everyone else, the punishment for crimes committed by police or crimes where police are the victims should be the same as it would be for any other citizen.
Mary Jane	Stidham	Cumberland, VA	Crime and Policeman	I find it very hard to believe than any reasonable person would want to make these changes to sentencing of crimes. I am a registered voter and I vote in every election and I hope we can get all of you out the next time you are up for reelection. <p>You hope to abolish mandatory minimum" jail sentences. These mandatory minimums cover various crimes, including many serious offenses like assaulting a teacher with a weapon, murdering a policeman, and raping a child aged 12 or under. There is also a mandatory minimum sentence for assaulting a police officer. In my opinion, these are some of the worst offenses you can do, especially killing a police officer or raping a child. These offenses DO NOT need to be lowered; they need to be increased. What are you turning The Commonwealth of Virginia into? Whatever it is, I don't want to be in a place like that. It is called unlawful and it is against everything most people believe in. Drop this like you would drop a hot potato.</p>
Glenda	Dent	Hampton	Expansion of earned sentence credits	I fell very strongly about supporting expansion of earned sentence credits. My loved one has been incarcerated for 25 yrs since the age of 17. He has made positive changes in his life. I believe he needs to be released to continue to do great things and assist other young adults in turning their lives around. Thank you.
Jose	Rodriguez	Los Angeles		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.

					I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during this upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic and my loved one is scared they will become ill and die from COVID-19 while in prison. Social distancing is impossible and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for Virginia's prison systems and will reduce the costs associated with those incarcerated for our state. This will allow my loved one and many others to come home where they will be safe. Please consider not just the well-being of all Virginia's citizens, but the revenue savings with less incarcerated people. I ask that you pass this legislation during this Special Session and make it effective as soon as possible. Thank you.
Ashley	Hall		Spotsylvania	Earned Sentence Credit Bill	
Victoria	Draper		Dublin	Earned Good Time Credits for non-violent and violent	I support the bill for Earned Good Time credits for Non-Violent and Violent offenders. Everyone deserves a second chance especially first time offenders knowing they have done everything possible to better themselves from inside the prison walls.
Ashley	Noe		1993 MARTINSVILLE	Earned Sentence Credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL (violent and non-violent crimes) behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Samantha	Milner		Virginia Beach	Good time credits	We talk of srcond chncses. but here in Virginia, that does not exist. The judicial is punitive almost to the point of lock them up and throw the key away. But it really should be second chance. I support this bill but I would be more content for to have the amendment pf 19.2,-297.1 and to exclude sex offenders as defined in chapter 4 section 8 including the possession of child pornography. I feel sex offenders who receive sexual gratification from a child is there sexual preference and no amount of incarceration is going to change that. For the violent offenders who fall into the category 19 2-297.1 have already had their 2nd chance, do they really deserve a 3rd or 4th chance. We should treat these people as an example of crime doesn't pay. I urge you to support this bill and give second people the hope of a second chance. Gin Carter is using this bill to have her partner released early from a 15 year sentence gained from a sexual crime against children a Radford University professor who worked in criminal justice. Gin has only known this man in prison and they are both set up the Humanization project together. Look up Taj Mahon Haft. Gin cannot speak honestly of his character, but this is the kind of person who needs to be in prison to protect our children. All the testimonials she uses are friends of his. Please pass this bill with the amendments from the 2020 session Many thanks Samantha Milner
Savannah	Hubble		Bedford County	Good Time Earned credit for ALL offenders	I have a friend who is currently incarcerated in the VA DOC. He was incarcerated in 2014. He's been a model prisoner. He's enrolled in college with an excellent GPA. He's working on the maintenance team and has the respect of the staff. He was unfairly pressured to take a plea with the threat of a longer sentence if he did not take it. I have known him for 30 years. I strongly support the Good Time Earned Credit. It is the right thing to do for my friend and ALL offenders.
Tamia	Edwards		Warren, Front Royal, Virginia	Expand earned sentence credits	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. I am concerned for my sons health
Tanisha	Lewis		Peoria	Good Time Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiance' was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during his time behind bars. He deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Janet	Hoegh	Personal	Polk	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	I am a friend of an inmate in Virginia. Out of fear he was coerced into signing a plea agreement, to a legal action. The state exacerbated it up to an illegal accusation. Is this justice? This inmate is serving a sentence that far exceeds anything he should be serving. Our country of guilty till proven innocent is out of control. I feel so many men and women are losing their lively hoods because of accusations made without proper evidence provided or for the political gains to be awarded for the number of guilty/plea verdicts received representing attorneys. I implore you to revisit our legal system, how we create plea deals and to give some compassion to some of the inmates that are serving sentences out of fear, coercion, bad representation or sentences that do not fit the crime. The character of a person can be seen in times of stress - reward for maintaining good standing and character while incarcerated should be recognized and evaluated.
Michael	Hubble		Bedford	Good Time Earned credit for ALL offenders	I am strongly in favor of the Good Time Earned Credit for ALL offenders. I currently have a friend who is incarcerated in the VA DOC. He has been a model prisoner since his incarceration in 2014. He's had no charges, enrolled in college and a part of the maintenance team. He is earned the respect of the staff. He was pressured in taking a plea under the threat of a much longer sentence. I support the Good Time Earned Credit not only for my friend but for ALL offenders.
Haley	Anderson	The Humanization Project	Portsmouth	HB 1532	I support HB 1532. It is very important to get the ball rolling on justice reform.
Vickie	Morgan	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	Argyle	Personal	My nephew is currently serving time in the VA DOC. He was verbally intimidated into signing a plea agreement. This is wrong! His record in prison has been impeccable. He has taken on-line college courses and maintained a high GPA and worked in The maintenance department. It is a testament to his character that through this all he has held high standards in his work ethic and gotten along with guards and other prisoners. I feel very strongly that ALL prisoners should have a second chance!

Jennifer	Acero		Virginia Beach	Prison Reform Legislation	I would like to express my strong interest and support in favor of additional 'good time' earned credits applied as it would relate to new prison reform legislation. I believe the elements presented earlier this year in the tabled Bill 1532 could serve as an efficient starting point of conversation for these overdue and much needed guidelines. Additional and updated good time earned credits would be best suited for those individuals who have not had any additional infractions incurred during their time served, and who are working or completed their assigned treatment plan. This particular update would also come at a time where mitigated risks for safety still loom as Covid-19 remains a continued threat to our communities. With enhanced good time/behavior credits applied to these inmates' sentences, many parties are benefited aside from the affected inmates. Understanding the concern this legislation would naturally merit, it would need to be done conservatively which is why stringent but reasonable guidelines should be implemented. However, with Virginia being one of the top states to have the least amount of good time credits applied to inmates' time served, I believe this specific area needs our attention now, and to be updated and relaxed to a certain degree.
Amber	Williams	Personal	Vinton	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	My brother is incarcerated in VA. He has a stellar record since being sentenced in 2014. He was at the time pressured to take a plea agreement for a much longer sentence. I believe in the Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders.
Samantha	Barker		Falls Church		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my husband, Christian Nealson is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Denny	Barger		Keysville	Good Time Credit Bill	I am in support of the Good time earnings credit bill to be passed.
Randy	Atkins		Botetourt	Good time earned credit For all offenders	I am writing on behalf of a friend who was forced to accept a plea agreement under threat of a longer sentence. He has served without issue and has continued his education and is a productive member of the prison. He is well respected by staff and inmates alike and should be granted good time served for all offenders.
Michael	Williams	Personal	Vinton	Good Time Earned Credit for All Offenders	My brother-in-law is currently incarcerated in the VADOC . Since being sentenced in 2014 he has maintained a pristine record and is in good standing with all of the staff. He has no charges, he's maintained a good GPA in his college courses, he has a good job on the maintenance team, etc. my brother-in-law was pressured to except a plea agreement under fear of a much longer sentence. I strongly support the good time earned credit for my brother-in-law and for All offenders. It is simply the right thing to do in pursuit of justice.
Jamesha	Worthington		Glen Allen		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My friend David Peeples was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you. https://hodspeak.house.virginia.gov/submit_testimony?meeting_id=8616
Gloria	Lehman		Rockingham County, VA		I support The Earned Sentence "Good Time" Credit Bill. With over 1,000 COVID cases and many deaths, this bill allows those behind bars to EARN earlier release. This seems to be a humane move during this pandemic. Please pass this bill.
KESHIA	MILON		NORFOLK	PRISON REFORM/ EARNED SENTENCE CREDITS	Grace and peace. I hope that this letter finds you well. I am a registered voter, as well as greatly influence others, because integrity is important to me. Just as my vote,,and all votes are important, I am asking likewise that the Legislation of this commonwealth, take a step further, and not only brainstorm ideas, but put a plan into action to Expand Earned Sentence Credits for those men and women incarcerated. During the upcoming Special Session, please help those affected by Mass Incarceration. A large percentage of our husbands, sons, fathers and brothers are behind bars. In some instances serving more time than morally right,. Help put men who desire to change back into their rightful places. As well as women to fulfill their roles. To have the same law, and expect a different outcome is insane... But, let's be a voice, and EXPAND this Earned Sentence credit to All as an incentive. This will also help with overpopulation and motivation for reformation. This concludes my statement. K. Milon
Cheri	Jackson		Martinsburg		I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Daniel	Ayre		Falls Church	Mandatory minimums and law enforcement	I am very concerned about all the talk about making the public and law enforcement officers more vulnerable by withdrawing funding support and legal protections from law enforcement. Given the chaos and anarchy we have seen lately, it is hard to understand why legislators would consider moving in this directions. Please do not adopt any measures which would reduce resources for law enforcement or reduce penalties for those who would attack officers.
Danyelle	Owen		Suffolk	30 for 30 for all	Thank you.
Shirlene	Stone		Hinds County	That the bill would be for ALL INMATES	I support the 30 for 30 for all bill
Cindy	Hooper		Barboursville	Law Enforcement	I am the aunt to Corey Coalter, an inmate who was unjustly accused, who received a sentence after being pressured to not go to trial. Corey has been a model inmate and has completed several college courses while incarcerated. He has proven himself at the jobs given him. Corey is a fine young man who I pray, is released from prison this year. Please consider the ruling to include ALL INMATES, regardless of their accused crime sentence. Thank you. As a retired public school teacher in Albemarle County, and the wife of a law enforcement officer (retired Virginia State Police and currently DOD), I am shocked that our commonwealth is considering cutting the police budget, removing officers from our public schools and reducing sentences for convicted offenders. It's very sad that police are being disrespected and even threatened because of the actions of a few. And, it's a disgrace that certain elected officials have allowed such destructive, violent and illegal activities. It's time the State of Virginia stands up for what is right, and supports our law enforcement agencies. Virginians want to feel safe, and as our elected officials, YOU are responsible for representing us, what is best for us. Without our law enforcement officers, to whom will we turn for protection, help and safety? To whom will you turn?

Sonia	Keeling		Virginia	Inmates sentence reduction	am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved ones my fiance and my son to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session, Thank you for you time
Luke	McCsnn		Roanoke	good time credits	Gin Carter promoting child sex offenders to be released. Taj Mahon-haft hsd sexual imsges of my neice amongst olots of otherd. he was re arrested when police kept finding evidence these people wont learn from being in a work camp. I do beluev in 2nd chancees but please no child sex offenders. they all get locked up together snd stick together possibly sharing their stories in s work based camp,thats nit s prison it s holiday camp. if the violent prisoners have learned good on em give them a chance but who is going to protect our children from predators I've seen the amendment by Delegate Mullin sbd Delegate Carr i approve of this, obe time offender doing hard time if they doin goid give them a chsnce I say but not sex offender
Jonna	Lowe	Brandon Wright	Rock Hill	30 for 30 Bill	There are inmates who should be allowed to have time back for good behavior. BRANDON Wright has been an superb inmate no troubles. Serving 10 years and has no infractions. Other inmates have also been on superb behavior. Give these individuals another chance at life.
Ashley	Montgomery	Coalition for Prison Reform	Covington	Earned Sentence Credits	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Sherrie	Frederick		Norfolk	Good behavior	in support of Good Time Earned Credits for *ALL* offenders. It is important to include "all offenders" as we don't want them to try to modify the bill to support only non-violent offenders.
Ciera	Flippen		Portsmouth	Good Time Earn Credits	I am in support of good time earn credits for all offenders. This is a critical time and they should be home with their family based on good time credits earned. In allowing them to be released, it will reduce the spread of the virus within the facility. My husband has served over 90% of his sentence and completed forklifting classes. Please release our love ones.
Jose	Vasquez		Arlington		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Tameika	Flowers		PETERSBURG	Passing The legislation	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. People that had been sentenced a long sentence deserves another chance to change. If they have served their time with a good sentence for 2 years or more I feel they deserve a new start at life.
Meraf	Ghebretatios		Falls Church	Earned Sentence Credit bill	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My son, Estifanos Mesghinna was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Arianna	Zoghi		Falls Church	Mandatory minimums	I hope that you will eliminate all mandatory minimums, but especially the 6-month mandatory minimum for assault on a police officer, which covers conduct that does not cause the officer any serious injury or even any injury at all. This offense should also not be a felony.
Magdi	Malak	Andrew Pratt	Henrico	Expand Earned Sentence Credits for ALL	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within the legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counterproductive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give the incentive to be better people. My (insert...husband/wife/son/mom/etc) was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.
Elizabeth	Schuster		Gloucester	All call to Action ;Necessary remedial rescue of Virginia Criminal Justice System	To whom it may concern' I live in a household that includes 4 law-abiding, tax paying citizens of Virginia. I no longer want our Virginia tax payer dollars to be allocated towards the current structure of Virginia's Criminal justice system. The current state of our criminal justice system is at a crucible. As challenging as it may appear, by doing the job that you were elected to do, you have the power to start to improve the path in which we are all heading with regard to our criminal justice system. Parole needs to be reinstated for violent and non-violent offenders, all offenders. The decision to eliminate parole in 1995 was a bad decision. It was thought that by eliminating parole, that it equaled fighting crime and it did not work. Not only did it not work it is trending to get much worse in terms of current humanitarian concerns for all associated with Virginia Department of Corrections.. The current path that the Virginia criminal justice system is structured is not sustainable. Please alter history to improve the future. Last but not least, it is also obligatory and pragmatic that "The Earned sentence Credit" be instituted for All violent and non-violent offenders. An aggressive Earned sentence credit bill will incentivize ALL inmates. The time to do this is now, not tomorrow, not next year, now. We are living in extraordinary times which allows for extraordinary actions. Thank you .
Jennifer	Hanna		Amelia	Earned Sentence Credit	Please support the earned sentence credit. This is something that is earned not given. Everyone deserves a chance to show they have changed. Thank you!

				<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Depenalization of marijuana is a time imperative policy to discuss during the 2020 special session, reasoning as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -First and foremost I'm aware of a constituent who is currently consider a fugitive by the commonwealth for simply participating in an industry that hasn't been commodified YET. -This otherwise law abiding constituent IS NOT A CRIMINAL and shouldn't be forced into a cruel and unusual justice system while they remain "on-the-run" desperately awaiting the legislature to reform our marijuana laws. - This particular constituent was targeted by law enforcement in their county because of their openly expressed sexual orientation/gender identity, low income status, anti-police oratory, and their involvement with the nonprofit marijuana reform group NORML . -Lastly and above all we must keep this constituent foremost in our minds as we change the laws in our Commonwealth; because WITHOUT bold, swift, and meaningful action this constituent will be forced to continue cowering in fear from a prison system which threatens their existence. <p>In conclusion, I never believed I would experience firsthand another human suffering such intense anguish and anxiety for such a prolonged period of time. This individual, this constituent, this human wants nothing more than to step out of the shadows. This human misses their family, they miss their friends, they can't wait to give a voice and a face to their story.</p> <p>On behalf of over 5,300,000 fellow Virginia Constituents we thank you all for the swift and extraordinary actions you will be taking on the issue of marijuana reform!</p> <p>Sincerely, A perturbed constituent</p>
A	B	Winchester	Marijuana Legalization/Depenalization	<p>I'm a citizen that has a re and implementation. Having witnessed and studied this phenomenon, I see the makings of one with the insane, wicked and well orchestrated Democrat Party tactics and strategies to exonerate the guilty and persecution of the innocent."DEFUNDING" POLICE ,cheering assault on POLICE, removing the minimum protection for school kids while giving the criminal element in those schools the go ahead sign while blessing the violence and brutality of your ANTIFA/BLM MOBS is a well thought out scheme on by Democrats to actually achieve the POLICE STATE.I know what you're up to and history (that you're destroying) bears me out. The Police sanctioned and sworn need more support, money, weapons and protection from criminals (you call " peaceful protesters ") and authority to crush them. The elimination of the Dillon Rule is just another tactic by Democrats to cause chaos and oppression on Virginians. Balkanizing the State is diabolical and I'm sure you're all just tickling yourselves having done it. Rich Mullin , Palmyra, Virginia</p> <p>Sirs&Madame;</p> <p>I'm a citizen with an aversion to POLICE STATE ideology and practical application. Democrats on the other hand ,have historically coized up to dictatorships and striven to implement Draconian, anti Constitutional police state tactics and brutal bullying on citizens wherever they take power. ANTIFA/BLM insurgents burning, looting and murdering and destroying History are working for Democrats now .Similar to fascist Black/Brown Shirts and/or Maoist Khmer Rouge they are Democrat Storm Troopers paving the way for such a Police State. The elimination of the Dillon Rule, emasculating our sworn officers while releasing incarcerated felons, refusing to charge felons by preposterous " survival crime" excuse, cheering insurgent barbarians marauders while locking down patriots and business while disarming them, is a sure hint at their intentions.Intentionally causing chaos and stress on society.</p> <p>Our sworn, trusted police departments need more funding for street cops and training. They need authorization to kick the stuffing of the barbarians and insurgents. You were screaming for more resource officers in our schools(the "schools" are another debacle Democrats create) now you want them out. The sure sign you're on the side of criminals is giving permission to your operators to assault police with little or no consequences.</p> <p>You are criminally insane. That goes for the bloody baby murdering , KLAN hooded Northam and Herring , as well.</p> <p>I moved here from another stinking hellhole. Cuomo' NYS.</p> <p>Geographically beautiful, wonderful people. Democrats have turned into a sewer. In less than a year Democrat progressives are progressively doing the same to Virginia.</p> <p>By the way, the biggest racists in the Nation are politicians and media. I don't have many friends , but, I have friends of all kinds.</p>
Rich	Mullin	Fluvanna	Virginia	Rich Mullin
William	Heipp	Midlothian	Civil Accountability	<p>It doesn't take great wisdom to understand that accountability for your individual actions is one of the greatest contributors to the peacefulness of a society. No longer is our state and local government looking to establish accountability among those who violate the public trust. When I talk about violating the public trust I'm not talking about the police department; I'm talking about every day citizens of every age, shape, color and race. If we wish to have peace in our time and rule of law, we also need to implement the means to enforce our laws and hold violators accountable. To do this we need to increase police presence.</p> <p>I strongly support Good Time Earned Credit. Those individuals serving out their sentence with good relations and respect among inmates and prison staff, who hold jobs, take advantage of furthering their education, and have had no issues while incarcerated should be given consideration for Good Time Credit. The record of these individuals shows their character. I am a proponent of Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
George	McLaughlin	Rock Hill	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	

Steven J	Trotta	Citizen	Albemarle	Defunding police/removal of minimum mandatory sentence	As a law abiding, veteran, and tax paying citizen, I am AGAINST taking ANY MONEY out of the police budget. There is no doubt that police services will suffer as a result of defunding and I am not willing to suffer the consequences of that, nor do I want to have to take on the responsibility of protecting my family and myself...which is the direction this movement is pushing people in. Take a look at gun sales in VA the past few months if there is any question about how residents feel about the proposed lack of protection. As for minimum sentence, there are crimes more horrific than others, especially when it comes to children, murder, and rape. There should be no opportunity for negotiating a minimum sentence. I do not want the people that commit such crimes on my streets since these criminal are always repeat offenders and they will kill, rape, and injure the good members of society again, which someday may be one of your family members. Society has always had, and always will have, members unworthy of enjoying freedoms and liberty of a democratic society.
Jessica	Colburn		Richmond	earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for all behind bars during the upcoming special session. Even now more then ever it is a frightening time to have a love one behind bars. Good people make bad choices, but can learn from them. My husband has grown and learned so much as a person while incarcerated. He wants to be a productive member of society and has a solid plan to do so. Especially with the COVID-19 crisis and myself being on the frontlines as a nurse , our family needs him home more then ever. Please allow my husband to come home by passing this bill. Thank you for your time and dedication.
Julie	Weaver		Abingdon, VA	Earned credits	This bill will motivate the inmates to behave to be able to come home earlier. This will reduce violence inside the prisons. It will give them a reason to be on their best behavior. It also will cause less fights and will give inmates a second chance at life. Also I wish this would apply to inmates with life time sentences that got locked up when under 20 so they will have a second chance at life.
Sandra	McLaughlin		Rock Hill, SC	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	I am a strong advocate for Good Time Earned Credit for All Offenders. The individuals who are doing their best to serve out their sentence without problems, who are diligent in their jobs at the prison, who are using their time to further their education, and who are respected and have a good relationship with other inmates as well as the prison staff should be given Good Time Earned Credit. I personally know an individual in the Virginia prison system who was forced to take a plea bargain which resulted in in prison sentence. During his prison sentence he has been exemplary in his conduct, holds a prison job, has furthered his education, and is well respected by inmates and prison staff. He, along with others in a similar situation, deserve Good Time Earned Credit. Thank you for giving strong consideration to Good Time Earned Credit for ALL offenders.
Janice	Green		Prince William	Earned sentence credits	I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my friend during this pandemic. Social distancing is impossible behind bars currently and the conditions in our prisons right now are scary. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session.
Tina	Miller		Chesterfield	Earned Sentence Credit Expansion Support	Thank you! Good Morning, I hope you are well. My name is Tina Miller and I am a paralegal, alumnum and current student at the University of Richmond (Go Spiders!) and I am in support of Earned Sentence Credit Expansion. Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband's charge reflects that he is guilty of First Degree murder, however he was convicted under the felony murder law here in Virginia and did NOT kill anyone, although on paper it reflects a violent crime. My husband has worked hard to be a good person during his time behind bars. Everyone deserves a second chance and the expansion of the Earned Sentence Credit system is a way to give that chance!
Eric	Feldman		Fairfax County	Criminal Justice and Racial Equity	As a resident of Fairfax County, I am dismayed by data showing that our Black neighbors make up 9.7% of our community but 44% of FCPD use-of-force incidents, a statistic getting worse year-over-year. As the Virginia House convenes its special session committee on courts and law enforcement, delegates should take any legislative action to incentivize and demand localities improve such abhorrent practices. Additionally, the delegation should reform or eliminate any laws, such as marijuana prohibitions, cash bail, mandatory minimums, and School Resource Officer programs, which are known to disproportionately affect our state's Black and brown residents through subjectivity and bias at the points of arrest or sentencing.
Brennon	Johnson		Blue Ridge	Good Time Credit for (ALL) Offenders	I support the Good time credit for ALL offenders.
Nancy	Richmond		Reva	Support for Police Officers	Police officers are law abiding enforcement of the laws that are on the books. These men and women need our support. They put their lives on the line each day. If you deliberately harm an officer in the line of duty, you should be punished to the full extent of the law.

				<p>Current law enforcement laws should be kept. There should be new trainings that are NATIONAL guidelines to how arrest are made. Make it clear for the law enforcement agencies so there is not murky individual counties following their own interpretations of current guidelines. Videos and skype trainings to update individual law agencies across VA and the USA.</p> <p>Only 1 % or less of law enforces are bad apples. Do like President Trump did with the VA and encourage local agencies to clean up their officers. Again cameras are critical in arrest and day to day contact with the public. Encourage other officers to get involved when one is doing something questionable. Overall we have great officers in VA and exceptional ones in Montgomery County. If an officer is assaulted, Keep the CURRENT laws, he has a right as an officer and a citizen of Virginia to be protected against acts of violence. At the end of a work no one wants an officer in the hospital or dead. These people put their lives on the line daily their skills are not ones that street people can learn with out proper training and schooling. Do not take law enforcement to Joe on the street ticketing and enforcing safety. We have a great system in America and the current laws were made by intelligent wise people. Finally, I would like to thank the current law enforcement who stand out in the heat, snow, sleet, and rain to protect and serve our Virginia citizens, I thank the officers who have given the their lives to protect and help Virginias. I also want to thank the wives and children who daily worry if "Daddy" or "Mommy" will make it back home.</p>
Lola	Rasschaert		Montgomery County	Current Police Laws
Susan	Nekoba		Fairfax Station	Committee meeting
Tiffany	Mckethan		Fort Washington	Expand Earned Sentence Credits
Charlene	Dalton		Albemarle	minimum sentencing for serious crimes
Ronalda	Mann		Williamsburg, Virginia	Expanding earned sentence credit for ALL
TAMMY	WOODALL		Argyle	Good time earned credits for ALL offenders
Ave Marie	Borie	Steven Decker	Marlton	Good Time Credit Bill
Joseph	Greene		Hanover	Police
Cecilia	Liss		Baltimore	
Dina	Crowder	Myself	Forest	Removing law enforcement from schools, cutting police budgets, decreasing penalties for assault to police officers

Current law enforcement laws should be kept. There should be new trainings that are NATIONAL guidelines to how arrest are made. Make it clear for the law enforcement agencies so there is not murky individual counties following their own interpretations of current guidelines. Videos and skype trainings to update individual law agencies across VA and the USA.

Only 1 % or less of law enforces are bad apples. Do like President Trump did with the VA and encourage local agencies to clean up their officers. Again cameras are critical in arrest and day to day contact with the public. Encourage other officers to get involved when one is doing something questionable. Overall we have great officers in VA and exceptional ones in Montgomery County. If an officer is assaulted, Keep the CURRENT laws, he has a right as an officer and a citizen of Virginia to be protected against acts of violence. At the end of a work no one wants an officer in the hospital or dead. These people put their lives on the line daily their skills are not ones that street people can learn with out proper training and schooling. Do not take law enforcement to Joe on the street ticketing and enforcing safety. We have a great system in America and the current laws were made by intelligent wise people. Finally, I would like to thank the current law enforcement who stand out in the heat, snow, sleet, and rain to protect and serve our Virginia citizens, I thank the officers who have given the their lives to protect and help Virginias. I also want to thank the wives and children who daily worry if "Daddy" or "Mommy" will make it back home.

Please do not weaken law enforcement at this critical time. The presence of resource officers in schools can not only deter unlawful behavior, but also gives students a positive interaction with and perception of police officers.

Mandatory minimum sentences for heinous acts help protect the citizenry by taking vicious criminals off the streets. We have seen the results of lax law enforcement across the country this spring and summer. A small percentage of people have taken the opportunity to riot, loot, and commit arson because there have been no consequences for them, due to orders from Democrat mayors and governors. Appeasement of these criminals has obviously not worked and some of our beautiful cities are in shambles. Please do not do anything to weaken law enforcement. Civil society depends on it.

I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session (August). I am very scared for my husband during this pandemic, specifically because of his underlying health conditions. Social distancing is unachievable especially in the dorm environment my husband is currently in. The conditions in the prisons right now are terrifying. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help alleviate some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my husband to come home where he can help us during this stressful time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens and pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please do not consider lessening the penalty for things like rape of a child under the age of 12, injuring or killing a police officer or assaulting a teacher! This is not the way to make this state a safe place for families to live and children to grow up.

Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My Son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.

I friend's son is incarcerated in the VA DOC. He was unjustly pressured into accepting a plea agreement under the threat of a much longer sentence. He has done well while being incarcerated by enrolling in college with and excellent GPA, a job on the maintenance team, and well respected among the staff. I strongly support the good time earned credit, not just for my friend's son, but for ALL offenders. It is the right thing to do.

Please support the Good Time Credit Bill for all inmates.

I am writing to support our constitution and our police departments. This country was founded with respect for the rule of law. I understand there are some problems that need to be dealt with however hamstrung police departments cannot function in the way needed to protect us. Defunding is not the answer. There are bad people in some of these organizations and they need to be dealt with individually. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.. let's use some common sense and solve the problem not create more.

Thank you
Joe Greene

Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. I have been affected by mass incarceration and my godson is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time

I strongly disagree with removing resource officers from our schools. Given the amount of schools shootings and issues in general, our children need this sense of security.

I strongly disagree with cutting or defunding our police. Fix the problem of "bad cops" but provide additional resource to our police officers to do their jobs.

I strongly disagree to decrease any penalty for assault to a police officer. We should at minimum maintain the "mandatory minimum" jail sentence for assault to them as well as for assaulting teachers with a weapon, rape etc.

Diversion First program sends mental health cases to treatment instead of jail. The Fairfax County government operates a program that diverts offenders with mental health issues away from an arrest record and detention, instead placing them with mental health treatment resources to address their underlying problems. The program developed in Fairfax County has been recognized by governments all across the country as a needed reform in criminal justice; the costs of housing inmates is significantly higher than periodic meetings with mental health counselors. The Sheriff estimates that 30 percent of inmates currently serving sentences have mental health issues, and the staffing is inadequate to provide intensive mental health services in the jail. The savings to the County are immediate because maintaining a mental health clinic for non-violent, low level offenders is much less costly than housing mental health patients in the County Jail. Legislation is needed to authorize similar diversion programs for mental health subjects across the Commonwealth.

Limiting and Ending Solitary Confinement--SALT supports the reducing of solitary confinement to an absolute minimum, since this practice is considered torture and fails to meet the "constructive and rehabilitative purpose" of criminal justice as set forth in statements by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2000; the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners; and the US Justice Department.

Eliminating the \$5.00 medical co-pays for inmates in Virginia is a priority. For example, when work is available if they earn \$.48 per hour--that's 11 hours of work to cover a single medical co-pay. Three states have taken action in 2019 to change one of the most harmful policies in prison healthcare. Out-of-reach co-pays in Virginia prisons and jails have two inevitable and dangerous consequences. First, when sick people avoid the doctor, disease is more likely to spread to others in the facility - and into the community, when people are released before being treated. Second, illnesses are likely to worsen as long as people avoid the doctor, which means more aggressive (and expensive) treatment when they can no longer go without it. It's time for Virginia to finally take action to change this risky and regressive policy.

- Banning the use of chokeholds and other tactics that have left Black people dead.
 - Eliminating federal programs that provide military equipment to law enforcement.
 - Prohibiting the use of no-knock warrants.
 - Ending the qualified immunity doctrine that prevents police from being held legally accountable when they break the law.
 - Making lynching a federal crime.
 - Helping prevent police misconduct in the first place by increasing data and transparency, as well as important modifications to training and practices.
- Please support this legislation and help us create a more just society where Black lives truly do matter.

Social Action
Linking Together
(SALT)

John	Horejsi	Vienna	Criminal Justice Reform	
Jessica	Marshall	Cliff Davis	Nellysford	Cliff is a stand up guy that's loves his kids and family, I worked with cliff for many years and I have seen how much he loves his family.
Kimberly	Smith	Lynchburg	LOOK AT ME!!!! Help	My father has been incarcerated for over 20 years, I Am Now 24. He's a quarter done with his sentence. I don't know my father and he doesn't know me outside of email and letters. I would love to get to know him and vice versa. My father missed all of my proms, my graduation, my first date, my first car purchase, but most importantly my life. He won't be able to walk me down the aisle, have daddy daughter dance, or meet grandchildren when the time comes. I would love to experience what every other girl got to. My father is a great person and provider, he made a huge mistake but he learned his lesson. WE know he learned his. It would mean the world for him to come home and get to know his children. He miss us and we miss him. Please please please help me! I'm a broken fatherless adult.
Sidney	Shelton	Washington, DC	Opportunities and resources for those in need	The investigation, adjudication and incarceration of many is frequently unfair as invoked and applied. Minority, poor, economically disadvantaged, poorly educated and socially disconnected, amongst other characteristics, citizens are rarely afforded access, consideration, or the benefit of the doubt that others in our society are afforded. Any effort which provides additional resources or opportunities to those who could benefit from them should be pursued and is the AMERICAN WAY. Thank You
Andrée	Gitchell Raines	Rockingham	Mandatory Prison Sentencing	Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concern and opinion on this matter. Quite honestly, I cannot believe our country has come to this, that I would even need to address the heinous crimes for which the need for a mandatory sentence would ever be in question. Only in a lawless country, a country without respect for humankind would this be an issue! As a licensed clinical social worker of 42 years I have seen and treated the emotional, life altering devastation of childhood rape. Without the physical or emotional capability to defend themselves there is the proposal that there be no minimum sentence for a crime that leaves scars that last a lifetime?! And no minimum sentence for those who would abuse or take the life of the officer who would investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of children, our country's greatest asset?! What is wrong with our country?! Why would any person or group of persons sworn to public service to make our country better, to keep us safe from harm, seek to change the very laws that do so?! Please, I implore you, keep a mandatory sentence to discourage lawlessness and disrespect for our country and certainly the most vulnerable within it. Maintain mandatory sentences for those who would seek to harm those officers sworn to defend our country, it's laws and keep us safe. Do not allow anarchists to have their way with our country and the rights we hold so dear and which set us apart from socialist and communist ideologies. Not protecting our police force will in fact decrease it's ranks. Why would anyone put themselves professionally in harms way to protect and defend when there is little deterrent for those who would seek to harm them? I will end with a meme that I read recently, "The Wolf has convinced the sheep that the sheepdog is dangerous. When the sheepdog is no more, the wolf will feast."

					<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crimes within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and gives incentive to better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiance was accused of a violent crime, then after his release, was put back in prison for a dirty urine, for 10 years. He had a drug problem and is unable to get the help that is needed but put back in a place, where it all started. He has worked hard to be a good person during his time behind bars. He deserves a second chance, as do all. He had 26 individuals stand before a judge for him stating the amount of growth that he has been striving for and these individuals were those not of his peers, but those of the law. The amount of time given to many, is unjust. Virginia needs to re-think their judicial system.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
Lauren	Cummings	N/A	Strasburg	Parole/ earned sentence credit	Lauren
Jessica	Andrews		Lynchburg		Let these humans out !!!
Jessica	Andrews		Lynchburg		William Smith , Lynchburg va 24501
Alexis	Smith		Lynchburg	William Smith Sr.	<p>He has served a quarter of his sentence and I'm sure he has learned his lesson just as the others convicted of similar crimes with lesser sentences. It's not right that he has 100+ years for robbery with no harm done to any person(s) physically and is a form of discrimination against one's ethnicity which more than likely played a role in why his years to serve in prison are an outstanding amount of years. This man has children he hasn't even got the chance to meet and every man deserves to have that relationship with their children before it's too late.</p> <p>To the leaders of Virginia,</p> <p>Try to remember what happened to that lovely judge and her family. If something happened to you or your family, I would hope you would side on maximum mandatory sentencing. Also, the police would be there to help you find the person(s) who did the crime. So, my point is always try to support your family and the people who help you do that which is the police not the criminals.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and stay safe,</p>
Melanie	Breeden	Self	Ruckersville	Maximum vs Minimum Mandatory sentencing	MLB
Dawn	Williams		Lynchburg	William Smiths incarceration	<p>How long is enough ? William Alex Smith has been incarcerated for 22 years for a crime of his youth. Doesn't he deserve the opportunity for Rehabilitation in his senior year, no lives were taken, no serious injury's, yes a crime was committed but how long is enough for a reasonable punishment ? Is 22 plus years enough ?</p> <p>Throughout Virginia, Commonwealth Attorneys are elected by the citizens of each area; however, in the subsection of the Attorney General's office, the Office of "Sexually Violent Predators", each of the prosecutors are selected by the AG, and citizens have no say. Seven prosecutors are trained specifically to try only cases to "civilly" commit individuals to a shadow prison AFTER completion of prison terms. (Note: The respondents, nor their attorneys in these cases are informed in court at the trials for their predicate offenses, that an indefinite detention after prison could be a consequence of an Alford or a guilty plea.) Once the "civil commitment" process at the end of prison or jail terms begins, the respondents are assigned a criminal defense attorney who in most cases has very little experience with SVP Laws because the cases are spread throughout the Commonwealth. However, the highly trained and well versed prosecutors from the AG's office use every available tactic to commit these returning citizens to the gulag of VCBR. Unless a respondent has unlimited financial resources, which most do not after spending many years in prison, they have little choice in their representation causing most to stipulate SVP status upon the recommendation of their appointed attorneys. Defense attorneys have admitted on several occasions that they "cannot win" these cases. Any training available to defense attorneys is led by the AG's office and leans highly in favor of the prosecution.</p> <p>Judges as well are not highly familiar with these laws as most smaller jurisdictions only see a few cases and larger jurisdictions spread the cases among several judges. Although a few respondents opt for a jury trial, most do not (or stipulate, as mentioned above) and their fate is left at the hands of the judge. Therefore, judges are hesitant to side in favor of a respondent based on fear and public perception and quite convincing arguments by highly paid evaluators who often manipulate their findings to paint inaccurate and damning pictures of the respondents to ensure re-hiring on other SVP cases. For several evaluators, SVP trials are their primary source of income, which is true for ALL of the prosecutors in the OSVP as well.</p> <p>This scheme is unfair, unjust, and arguably unconstitutional and should be completely abolished as the court proceedings are just one small part of a corrupt system.</p> <p>NOTE: Over 60% of those imprisoned at VCBR are black, and historically black citizens serve longer prison sentences initially, therefore, their time behind bars increases significantly with the SVP scheme.</p>
Kirsten	Darby	Just Future Project	Woodford	Commonwealth Attorneys/Assistant Attorney Generals/Judges	
Starlena	Hodges		Franklin		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my brother is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p> <p>Hello my name is Darrell Kinard I am an exoffender of the d.o.c as the privileges that non violent offenders are offered I was released early do to earned credit sentence and due to covid. However I feel that it is unfair that people that have higher custody levels are not rewarded anything for their good behavior while serving there sentence. As a nonviolent offender we are put in work centers and are rewarded work release if we conduct ourselves in the best way we can meaning no charges work history etc. The offenders are not given the opportunity to even be outside the fences to work and to train there mind and body to be prepared for work upon there release. Also by me being eligible for work release has given me a head start and a stable foundation By being able to save money and find good employment. It's very sad that a system that is supposed to be rehabilitating people are send people home with nothing causing the transition to be very hard which in turn makes the chances of recidivism very likely. I feel that if every offender would have the opportunity that I was given their chances of recidivism would be greatly reduced. This is the time to make changes in the criminal system to help offenders come back to society with a fighting chance not just put back out here with nothing. I support this bill and really hope that it gets passed. I would love to talk more about the criminal system and my experience with it inside and out so if u can please contact me via email thank you</p>
Darrell	Kinard		Manassas	Earned sentence credits	

					<p>I am Kelly Harris-Braxton, Executive Director of Virginia First Cities Coalition, a 16-member strong association of the Commonwealth's older, core cities. Virginia First Cities was a thought and policy leader by proposing and helping implement the Community Wealth Building Program, known in the state budget as the TANF for Employment Grant Program. The underlying principle of this program is to remove the silos that persist in the provision of social service delivery to citizens of the Commonwealth to create greater opportunity for jobs that create self-sufficiency. This program is having a significant, positive impact in many of our local communities receiving grants. It is for this reason, we urge the General Assembly to please look at the issue of criminal justice reform in a non-siloed manner. Genuine success for citizens in one policy area is often interrelated to other supporting policy areas. A Community Wealth Building approach will foster equity in justice, as well as equity in healthy communities for all. Virginia First Cities convened a panel of our member city police chiefs/city managers/and council members back at our 2015 Annual Meeting of our Board of Directors in Charlottesville. There, VFC police chiefs participated in a panel discussion entitled, "Every City a Baltimore - Policing Today." The purpose of this deliberative panel was to make recommendations for reforms in the aftermath of the senseless use of force used on Freddie Gray in Baltimore, MD and Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. The time is now for the General Assembly to enact long overdue reforms for 21st century policing. We urge the General Assembly and Governor to adopt these proposals so that our police departments can be re-imagined and more effective as soon as possible.</p> <p>VFC has done a lot of work around the issue of community-engaged policing and spoken to chiefs of police, both current and retired, from a variety of localities in the Commonwealth. We understand that many police departments need to refocus their efforts on real community based policing to build much needed trust among citizens, and particularly those located in areas that have higher police interaction. Community policing is sorely lacking and strategies must be employed to remedy this problem.</p> <p>VFC Priorities Sampling:</p> <p>Need community input and participation in the hiring of law enforcement recruits. A diverse police force that mirrors the community it serves, should be a priority. Overarching accountability through DCJS to recruitment, training and continuing education is crucial. Replace law enforcement's traditional role in mental health crises by allowing the creation of a statewide Mental Health Co-Response Team. State funding is necessary. Require anti-bias/anti-racism training for recruits and in-service continuing education. This should be a statewide mandate and training centralized through VCJS to ensure quality expert consistency and coverage. Require enhanced standardized training for all trainers. Create consistent standards for high quality training for all officers, regardless of location in the Commonwealth</p>
Kelly	Harris-Braxton	Virginia First Cities Coalition (VFC)	Richmond	Policing/Public Safety Reform	<p>Leadership Training for law enforcement leaders – This will encourage needed cultural changes in policing and provide education on the latest 21st century Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentives for better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counterproductive. Sentence length already reflects the initial crime, so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, those who have done wrong deserve incentives to improve themselves. My son was sentenced for a violent crime but has worked hard to become a better person during his time behind bars. Those convicted deserve a second chance to prove themselves by reentering society as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
Jennifer	Chaney	Humanization Project	Salem	Earned Sentence Credits	
Billie	Dutram	Personal interest as a Citizen of the United States and the State of Virginia	Ivy	Assault on Police Officers and Abuse of Children	<p>I am appalled by the idiocracy that makes up Virginia's General Assembly majority. I am enraged by the mere idea that an assault/death on and of police officers and the rapes of children 12 and under (and other ages as well) should be placed in a category of mandatory minimums for the criminal element of animals that deem it a joy to inflict this type of behavior on others. I am enraged that anyone in their right mind could even come up with this stupidity and uncaring consciousness and actually provide us with this type of an agenda. Perhaps those making up these agendas should actually recognize the fact that these horrors happen to innocents. I get the impression that if it isn't happening to those who come up with these ideas it really isn't happening.</p> <p>Billie Dutram Ivy, Virginia</p>
William	Smith		Lynchburg		<p>Today I'm here to speak on the unlawful sentencing I am a son to a father that has been locked behind bars since I was the age 5 and my sister the age of 2 we are now 27 and turning 24 for 80 percent of our life we haven't had our father due to his mistake my father is sentenced to 113 years for his crime back in 1998 my father didn't kill nor harm anyone in today's age people commit murder and get at least 35 to 40 years so how is it that a person can take a life and get that many years but someone that never harmed a soul but just trying to provide for his family on a first offense mind you get 113 years it's not right since the age of 5 I've kept hope that one day me and my dad can go fishing watch football basketball son and father things that we have missed out on and today during this meeting you have the opportunity to change something that is well needed in our justice system not just for my dad but for all the men and women wrongfully convicted or sentenced so please today help bring them home and do the right choice imagine 22 years without seeing your kids.....</p>
Teri	Buck	Mrs. Teri Buck	Fredericksburg	decreasing sentencing requirements for those assaulting police officers	<p>Please hear the outcry of the majority of Virginia citizens who will not tolerate this continuing down-slide into anarchy! Law and order is the foundation of any society. The alternative is anarchy, violent crime, and the unraveling of that very society. As elected officials, you have an obligation to preserve law and order and the peace in our state, our counties, and our cities. Our law enforcement personnel are the first line of defense to violent crime and continuing to devalue them is foolish indeed. This endeavor is nothing short of insanity and those pushing for this dangerous bill to reward criminals for attacking law enforcement personnel will be held accountable to the citizens of our great Commonwealth.</p>

Angel	Pullen	Prince William County	Criminal Justice Reform	Currently, I have a brother who is incarcerated. During the traumatizing news of COVID-19 arising throughout the entire world; to be precise the month of April my brother started to feel ill and requested to be seen by medical. Unfortunately, he was not seen by medical or have been taken seriously by the facility staff despite the severity that was at state. About the 5th week of continuously attempting to seek medical services he was provided with antibiotics in which he had no sort of infection and a COVID testing. Once he received his testing shortly afterwards his test turned out to be negative he was placed into solitary confinement. The prisoners as well as staff of course would have to worry whether they'd be contracted or not; but placing my brother or any other prisoner into solitary confinement is not the solution; that is more of torturing them psychologically and not making any matters better. Not only is the inmate affected by this but also the inmates family members. While my brother was held in solitary confinement we had no help information in regards to his well being. It took about two weeks to finally get the answers to our questions and concerns. The conditions inmates are currently living are beyond inhumane. Besides the world wide concern of COVID it is believed that lengthy sentencing is unjustly to the inmates families, especially the elderly parents and children. Recidivism testing on inmates may seem to be justful in the systematic outlook but in all due respect these testings that are provided to the inmates annually shouldn't define or be held accountable against them to whether or not be recidivism into society. All imprisoned deserve a second chance. A person's personality nor temporary behavior should be applicable to being a set stone to whom they may become in a permanent lifestyle. If children can learn from their right and wrong actions why is it that an adult not be granted with being an opportunity to redeem their remorsefully mistaken actions? Every human being should be allowed to demonstrate their growth and changes to our communities but with the same equality the current citizen is entitled with. In saying this, please think of any moments in your life span where you may have been given a second chance; whether it'd be for relationships, career, financials or even self identification. Thank you!
Pearlie	Joyner	Prince George	Earned Sentence Credit Bill	I am in support of Earned Sentence Credits Bill. My son is currently incarcerated at the Craigsville Correctional Facility. Upon arrival at this facility, he immediately inquired into job possibilities. He is currently employed. In his current position ,he is making masks and gowns for Governor offices, health facilities and his fellow inmates. He reads magazines and books to be current with this rapidly changing. Also, he is always asking me to send him information on colleges. His goal is to continue his education and contribute some good to society. This is just an example of the type of person my son is and others who could benefit in moving this bill forward. To be given an opportunity to be a part of the earned sentence credit is just what is needed for all inmates. Therefore, I am for moving forward in passing the Earned Sentence Credits Bill. Thank you for your attention.
John	James	Doswell	Police Funding	I do not believe reducing police funds will lead to anything other than increased crime and lower police moral. If legislators choose to direct funding to mental health workers responding to 911 calls or other active potentially dangerous mental health issues they should be held criminally responsible for any crimes against the responding health care workers.
diana	smith	Herndon Reston Indivisible Writers Group	RESTON Policing in Virginia	I have never believed police officers belong in our schools and they should be removed. I am deeply disturbed by testimony, comments, and open letters to government by Police, Sherrifs, and unions -- roughly all saying that if they can't have immunity from bad acts, if they have to be certified, if the 1997 act which allows them to charge citizens with felonies based on their discretion is modified-- then they won't have recruits, police will leave the ranks, its not fair to police, it restricts them, it infringes on their rights -- all sorts of spurious reasons for opposing reform. I am a 68 Year Old White Women who watched thuggish, brutal behavior by heavily armed police in Richmon-- using indiscriminate swings of batons -- to beat down people in the streets when those people were filming, walking away from crowds, peacefully assembled. This is radical violence and I think intolerable in a civilized state. If police were held to a standard for when they can use violence and that if they fail that standard they will be immediately discharged and face legal penalties -- then I think there will be less testeronic hystronics in policing behavior. Lets move pass Policing (controlling the civilian population to act as a police desires) to a situation where police focus on crime, social workers focus on civil matters, mental health experts focus on behavior, and administrative actions handled without massive displays of force.
John	James	Doswell	Minimum sentences	Lets rethink policing. Poverty and mental illness are not crimes; but both are a pathway to violent encounters with overly reactive forces.
John	James	Doswell	Cash Bail	There should be minimum sentences for abuse of police officers. The break down of the rule of law is the beginning of the break down of civilized society. The idea of cash bail letting violent accused persons out of jail is a guarantee of lawful citizens at some point being negatively affected by those accused persons.
Debra	Deuyour	Personal	Botetourt	Good time earned credit for All offenders
				I have a loved one that is incarcerated in VaDOC. He was pressured on accepting a plea deal to avoid a longer sentence for a crime he didn't commit. He has been incarcerated since 2014 and has served his time without any violations. He has been taking college classes and has an excellent GPA. He is on the maintenance team and is highly respected by the staff. I strongly support the Good Time Earned Credit, not just for my loved one but for All offenders. It is the right thing to do in the pursuit of justice.

Cassandra	Lewis	Cassandra Lewis	Ashland	Assault on Police	As a spouse of a law enforcement officer (LEO), I am absolutely sickened to hear that Virginia is considering lowering the penalty for those whom assault an officer. What makes a LEO any different than another human being whom deserves the same treatment? As you eluded to in your email, there are a couple bad apples in police just as there are bad apples in EVERY profession. The entirety of the profession should not be judged by the acts of a few. When considering this legislation, I would like those who support this to consider their family member going to work every night getting bottles and bricks thrown at them or getting spit at and screamed at for hours on end. Would they be able to take this? Or is it ok for their family member to accept this? These men and women risk their lives for us every day and for them to be treated with such disrespect and hate is unacceptable and quite frankly no different than what the opposing side is arguing that they want; justice for all because ALL lives matter. Nothing is worse than having a child ask you if their daddy was coming home tonight or if someone was going to hurt him at work. Again I ask, is this acceptable for their family? I'm assuming that is a solid no for an answer. Our LEOs and their families deserve better. They deserve a community and a government that supports them and pushes them to do better. Instead, implementing things like this will only continue to increase the rate of exiting the profession with no new people interested in joining. I strongly oppose this legislation and I appreciate you standing with law enforcement! You will always have my vote because of that!
David	Deuyour	Personal	Botetourt	Good time earned for All offenders	I have a loved one incarcerated in VaDOC. He was unjustly pressured into accepting a plea agreement under threat of a much longer sentence. He has applied himself while being incarcerated- no charges, enrolled in college with an excellent GPA , job on the maintenance team, well respected among the staff. I strongly support the good time earned credit, not just for my loved one but for "All" offenders. It is the right thing to do!
Patrick	Lamb		Beaverdam	Please do all that you can to maintain mandatory minimum sentencing.	Please do all that you can, Buddy, to maintain the mandatory minimum sentencing that we have in Virginia. It is a valuable part of the criminal justice system known as deterrence. The liberals would have everyone believe that it is all "rainbows and unicorns" out here but in the real world deterrence is what keeps predators from preying on the vulnerable. Deterrence is one of the means by which we can discourage criminals from choosing action when it comes to committing crime. Thank you for fighting the good fight, Sir!
Diane	Hart		Roanoke	earned sentence credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for all behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their family and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my loved one is a good person who needs to be home with us during this time. In spite of COVID 19 and fearing daily if he will be exposed, we all know the conditions in prison do not have the ability for social distancing, use of sanitizers, and proper medical care in the case of COVID. The financial hardships already placed on families make it difficult to see our loved ones, talk to them because so many institutions have been on lock down for a long time. Allowing to expand earned sentences credits would also allow our loved ones to come home and be with us during this pandemic. I would think that would affect the budget for DOC and perhaps some of that money could be used elsewhere . My love one is doing 13 years for a probation violation. He has incurred no charges during his incarceration and has participated in programs such as facilitator for the RSATP program, peer and parent support groups, and teaches serve safe classes. He was a successful business owner prior to his incarceration and will do that again when he gets home. Please bring our love ones home by expanding earned sentence credits. Sincerely, Diane Hart Roanoke, VA 24019
Joan	Hoover		Cape Charles	Police protection	Please do not begin to think of removing police protection. If you choose to do this , then you have given in to mob rule and organized crime! No one will be safe! Our police men and women are a real blessing and a wonderful source of protection. Just because one of their number did something terrible, does not mean that all are in that category! Please do not punish our police and also all law abiding citizens, who will then have to live in fear. Thank you for your kind consideration of my message.
Kurt	Berry		Caroline	Law enforcement	Law enforcement cuts where? Will we reduce investigations into child abuse? Domestic violence? Rape? Murders? Who will decide what gets cut? Government is primarily responsible for protecting citizens and property. Cutting law enforcement is especially dangerous given the recent violent protests we see all over our country and state. I am gravely concerned that governments are not protecting people and property. If I see Virginia heading in this direction I will definitely move to a state that believes in protecting its citizens and property. But if you truly believe this ridiculous course of action you should lead by example and eliminate all security and law enforcement for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our state.
BILLY W.	ADAMS	Personal	Lizella	Good Time Earn Credit for All Offenders	I know a young man that is serving his sentence with an exemplary record while serving his time. This young man has proven himself responsible and worked very hard to improve himself. He is very well thought of among the staff where he is serving his time. The whole purpose of prison reform should be to reward those who have served their time with excellence. This bill that would offer good time credit earned for good behavior should be a bill that everyone would support. Thank you for the opportunity to speak for those who are proving themselves while serving their sentence.

Leroy	Williamson	1959 ASHLAND	Removal of statues.	<p>I am completely dismayed by the Speaker's statement. History must be told completely and accurately, warts and all. If she would take a moment from the Democrat nonsense book and actually read about General Lee, with an open mind, she may have a whole different outlook on him. Yes slavery was an abomination, but why is it that the Democrat party wants to keep people enslaved by the government? If they want to remove monuments, then remove them all like Arthur Ash, Bojangles and Maggie Walker. If they want to erase history, erase it all! If we don't learn form all of history, we are destined to repeat it.</p> <p>Our founding father were brilliant and insightful men. They set up a great system of governance that has unfortunately been corrupted by vile and self serving individuals. This administration and the ruling party in the general assembly have but one purpose, to legislate power from the people by pandering to a socialist base thst allows criminals and illegals to continue to vote them into office so they can turn the Commonwealth and the country into a socialist society run by thugs, vandals and thieves.</p>
Oscar	Beasley	Mr.Beasley	Warrenton	<p>Oppose decriminalizing assault on Virginia Law Enforcement Officers</p> <p>Dear VA Legislators, I am adamantly opposed to reducing any penalties or reduction in sentencing against those convicted of assaulting a law enforcement officer. We need to do all we can to help our local law enforcement, and de-funding them or worse, lessening penalties on those that would attack our law enforcement communities must be opposed. I want to INCREASE penalties on those convicted of assaulting any Virginia Law Enforcement Officer, not decrease them.</p>
Dominique	Scruggs		Lynchburg City jail	<p>William Smith- Lynchburg, Va release from jail</p> <p>I grew up with this man until I was 4, and have nothing but the best memories of him. His actions cause him the be in the place he is. It was for his family none other then that. I whole heartily believe that this man has served his sentence, and have learned from his mistake. I want to call the attention for his case to open back up with the hopes of his release from jail.</p>
Sherry	Carter-Hale		Nelson County	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credit for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust person sentence affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass and conservation and my husband is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time thank you for taking the time to read my email and hear my concerns! Stay safe and healthy!</p>
Jason	Lips		Prince William	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Please pass Delegate Scott's bill, HB 1532, during the upcoming special session. This legislation will expand earned sentence credits for those serving behind bars. When I was growing up, I was always told you earn your rights, nothing is given. Lengthy prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, and community. Let us assist the Virginia Department of Corrections with incentives for incarcerated people to be productive returning citizens. Please give the people behind bars a second chance by expanding earned sentence credit for positive and productive behavior. Thank you. As a mentor for the youth, I see first and secondhand the 100 mile stare affected by lengthy prison sentences, the isolation placed on our youth's character and stress accumulated on their shoulders from emotional and physical disconnect. Please give the people behind bars a second chance by expanding earned sentence credit for positive and productive behavior. Thank you.</p>
Lindsay	Michie	Petition to Restore Parole Parole in Virginia on Change.org (23,360 signatures)	Lynchburg	<p>Restoration of Parole</p> <p>My name is Dr. Lindsay Michie; I am a history professor at the University of Lynchburg and I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge legislators and the governor to use the special session held in August to restore parole to the state of Virginia. There are powerful and compelling reasons for this action, both moral and practical. Morally, the abolishing of parole in 1995 should never have taken place: it has placed unnecessary burdens on communities and families, reinforced racism through the percentage of people of color locked up compared to the percentage they make up of the population of Virginia (60% to 20%), and provided little to no incentive for rehabilitation on the part of prisoners. For many whose crime in no way matches the number of years they've had to spend in prison, it has resulted in what one prisoner described as a "slow death sentence." Practically, it has cost the taxpayers far too much money and created a costly, burdensome and complicated bureaucratic system to deal with those still eligible for parole under the old law, those who are denied that opportunity, and those who are aging to the point that they need increased medical care. It has also diverted well-needed funds from education and community resources in order to build unnecessary prisons and house way too many prisoners. Restoring parole would not automatically flood the streets with so-called criminals as we would still have the parole board to make sensible and measured decisions on each candidate's eligibility to re-enter society. The present pandemic makes the arguments for this change even more compelling as the prisons, like nursing homes, quickly become breeding grounds for infection. In the 21st century, we should be looking at intelligent and sensible methods to deal with crime that place greater emphasis on rehabilitation and community programs and less on actions that support institutionalized racism and enrich out of state corporations that benefit from warehousing prisoners. Restoring parole is a straightforward and simple solution to both the moral and practical problems of our current prison system in the state of Virginia. Locking up large numbers of people up for long periods of time is no way to govern a society.</p>
Linda	Briggs		Chester county	<p>Legislation</p> <p>Please pass this legislation. The purpose of incarceration is to rehabilitate those in prison. It is not to take away their entire life. The country and government needs to give credit to those inmates and allow their early release so they can be productive citizens.</p>
Terrance	Morrison	My uncle Michael J. Morrison	Chatham	<p>Credit on Sentences for all inmates that are in prison..... My uncle is a very good man & I think he deserves another chance & he deserves to be home with his family & love ones..... So can the House of Delegates please take this matter into consideration..... Thank you so much,</p> <p>Terrance Morrison</p> <p>I'm asking can the House of Delegates please take this matter into consideration cause my uncle deserves another chance cause he's a good man & he also has a good heart..... He just need to be home with his family & love ones.....</p> <p>Thank you so much,</p> <p>Terrance D. Morrison</p>

1. ~~Repeal~~ the governor and the democrats who place a higher regard of criminals over the safety and well-being of the taxpaying citizens, who, consequently, are paying their salaries. I guess abolishing these mandatory minimums would not be on the table if any one in their respective families would happen to be assaulted with a weapon, murdered or their child being raped. I guess it is okay for criminals to do such things to everyone else.
2. ~~Close~~ all public schools – no schools, no necessity of police presence in a school. Given the fact that children still received an education during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is realized that the students can achieve an education online, homeschooling or private school.
3. ~~Let~~ the individual school determine if a police presence would be necessary.
4. ~~If~~ the governor and the democrats are so adamant about defunding something, defund the Department of Social Services. Restructure the system that will discourage women from having children that they cannot afford nor want but will do so if it means receiving a government handout. Police are more beneficial to a society than a pregnant women seeking a government handout.

Law enforcement officers (community-engaged policing, bias and hate crime), Commonwealth Attorneys and Judges (bias) and mandatory minimums"

Susan Sawyer	Lawrenceville	
Deaona Broggin	Killeen	William smith Senior , Lynchburg Virginia

Dear honorable representatives of the Joint committee of Courts of Justice and Public Safety,

My name is David Wells, I have been a resident of this Commonwealth of Virginia for over 40 years, and currently reside in Fluvanna County. I have over 25 years of law enforcement experience with state and local agencies and have held a variety of progressively responsible positions in several agencies, which include but are not limited to patrol, SWAT, investigations, and command level administration. I am a DCJS certified general and defensive tactics instructor who has instructed at several academies throughout the Commonwealth. I am a member of the IACP and the SSBA, graduated from the FBI National Academy, and currently serve as a Captain in our agencies Field Operations division.

One big issue I see is that current DCJS mandates on use of force training are abysmal. The tactics are outdated and there is NO mandated in-service training requirement for use of force and hands on defensive tactics. There is no requirement to train on use of force tactics once you complete the basic academy. The lack of accountability and mandated training by DCJS is less than optimal and shows how far we are behind in keeping current with good standards and practices. At my agency we train once a year to try to keep the basic skills fresh. Hands on tactics are a perishable skill and without continued training, you lose muscle memory, without muscle memory your basic motor skills are degraded when it actually comes time to react. Adrenalin and fear (physiological and psychological responses) take over, resulting in poor tactics and excessive or deadly force outcomes.

Choke Holds are another topic frequently mentioned. In 15 years as a defensive tactic's instructor, I have never taught and/or promoted the use of a choke hold, they are dangerous if used incorrectly. However, if lethal force is justified, they may be the only viable option to save the officers life. If you feel the need to address choke hold beyond the current law prohibiting strangulation, §18.2-51.6, then I recommend using similar verbiage. "Unless lethal force is justified, law enforcement officers are prohibited from impeding the blood circulation or respiration of another person by knowingly & intentionally applying pressure to the neck of any person." The language in proposed SB 5002 does not account for lethal force situations and appears to ban any and all touching of the neck during any sort of physical conflict.

Legislation that would mandate mandatory background checks and the sharing of employment records of law enforcement officers with other law enforcement agencies would assist in identify those who should not wear a badge. Having conducted employment background investigations for years, many times I hit a wall when the past employer will only provide employment dates and nothing more. I have also had past employees turn up at other law enforcement agencies and no one every called for an employment reference.

Please think beyond the immediate outcry and make strong, well-researched legislation that will lead to meaningful reform. Give us the tools and training to do our jobs. Understand that each situation is unique and must be looked at based on the totality of the circumstances versus painting all of us with an overly broad brush.

I thank you for your time and please let me know if I can be of service.

Captain David R. Wells

David Wells	Fluvanna County	Law Enforcement Reform
-------------	-----------------	------------------------

					<p>I am a resident of Virginia Beach. As a taxpayer and citizen, I am interested in the subject of school safety and discipline which, I understand, will be discussed with the Committee on Wednesday, July 29. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my comments.</p> <p>For several months, these issues have been actively discussed by the Virginia Beach School Board, by teachers, and by those members of the City's administration concerned with school safety. The issues are complex and are inspiring active debate as to the appropriate level of discipline that should be administered throughout the school system in response to student misbehavior.</p> <p>Among those advocating a more lenient approach, the argument is that we are dealing with adolescents, not adults, where fully developing standards of proper behavior are undergoing continuing development. For some students affected by mental or physical problems, their misbehavior has often been characterized as simply a "manifestation of their disabilities" for which overly harsh treatment could cause permanent and longterm psychological damage. Others, advocating a stricter approach, point to the potential of serious harm that under-disciplined students can effect on their innocent schoolmates and teachers. A central issue in these debates is what level of independent security should be kept on force in school environments to react to or prevent incidences of harmful misbehavior.</p> <p>These debates (which include many other, less obvious issues) need to continue among people directly involved in the management of our schools. Legislators who are much further removed from direct involvement in these issue should hold back from instituting what they see as "needed" reforms, such as removing police officers and other "SROs" from school grounds, decreasing penalties for violent behavior, and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for criminal assaults on students, teachers, and property. Absent a clear consensus among school regulators that actual harm results from these current safety requirements, the Committee should await carefully presented evidence of what is working in these environments and what needs change. To relax existing important safeguards without hard evidence of their potential consequences would be premature and irresponsible.</p>
Stephen	Middlebrook		Va Beach	School safety	I look forward to the proceedings of the Committee and hope that a more studied reaction to this important issue will be forthcoming.
Taneika	Goldman	Citizen	North Chesterfield	Mandatory Minimums	<p>Mandatory Minimums make sense only when applied fairly. If assault of a teacher carries a certain legal consequence than it should be so, inconsequential of the teacher or the criminal's race. However, until the current imbalance of justice is corrected - speaking about the fact that a person can be wrongly accused and convicted of a crime, Mandatory Minimums will add to the overcrowding of jails and prisons without hope for real restitution or justice.</p> <p>I am George Smith, a 40-year resident of Fairfax County, a Marine Corps veteran, and a retired attorney.</p> <p>It is difficult to discern the exact focus of Wednesday's (July 29) second hearing from the Joint Committee agenda, other than the vague reference to "Law enforcement officers (community-engaged policing, bias, and hate crimes)" in the Draft Agenda. However, given the general tenor of the majority in the House of Delegates this year, and reports about its criminal justice agenda, this concern arises: the agenda seems at risk to fall in line with the national anti-police hysteria aimed at imposing restrictions and defunding vendettas against police, coupled with the false premise that law enforcement officers in Virginia and the nation are broadly infected with racial bias against minorities, notably blacks.</p> <p>The Committee, the full House of Delegates, and the Virginia legislature should pause, reflect, and refrain from joining the reckless national political and media assault on our law enforcement officers and community, which could not come at a worse or more inopportune time.</p> <p>Only today, a Chicago woman commented as follows on the brutal, broad daylight carjacking on her block against an 80-year-old man in Chicago by a gang of marauding brutes: "The country we live in is unsafe." See NBCchicago.com. When our police are defunded, vilified, and persecuted, the breakdown of public safety is sure to follow.</p> <p>Our Virginia communities have not descended to the level of routine mass violence that obtains in Chicago, Portland, Seattle, and other cities where law enforcement has been effectively nullified by either lack of government support or outright hostility. But if Virginia's legislature and executive follow a similar path of anti-police hostility and false stereotyping of our police forces (many or most of which are racially diverse themselves) as racist, Virginia communities could experience breakdowns of law and order similar to those presently occurring in far too many of our cities.</p> <p>Here in Virginia, we should not follow the divisive example of those who would seize upon isolated instances of police wrongdoing to draw entirely unwarranted, poisonous, and divisive generalizations about the thousands of police officers, of all races, ethnicities, and genders, who daily maintain the peace and enforce the law under stress that few of us could cope with.</p> <p>In light of these considerations, the committee and the full legislature should decline to join what amounts to a media-driven general hysteria against police, and refrain from reducing police funding; reducing penalties for assaults on police; or otherwise imposing unwarranted statutory restrictions that will handcuff the police in their difficult task of keeping the peace and preventing criminal violence.</p> <p>As a resident of Fairfax County, and a supporter of equity for all of our residents, I was disappointed to see data showing that our Black neighbors make up 9.7% of our community but 44% of FCPD use-of-force incidents, a statistic getting worse year-over-year. As the Virginia House convenes its special session committee on courts and law enforcement, delegates should take legislative action to address incentivize these unfair and abhorrent practices. Additionally, the delegation should reform or eliminate any laws, such as marijuana prohibitions, cash bail, mandatory minimums, and School Resource Officer programs, which are known to disproportionately affect our state's Black and brown residents through subjectivity and bias at the points of arrest or sentencing. Thank you for taking these issues seriously.</p>
George	Smith	retired	Annandale	Hearings on Law Enforcement Officers/bias issues	
Lauren	Simons-Lane		Fairfax County	Criminal Justice Reform	

Marisol	Albelo	Humanization Project	Westchester, NY	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my husband MICHAEL A WILLIAMS #1081925 is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my husband MICHAEL A WILLIAMS #1081925 is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
Kylah	Kemper Claytor		Lynchburg		<p>Everyone deserves a second chance at life and no child deserves to live a life never having a relationship with their parent because of a mistake they could learn from</p>
Lachelle	Warwick		Lynchburg	Release of William Smith Sr.	<p>William Smith Sr. of Lynchburg Va. is serving 100+ years for robbery. His children do not know him and all they want more than anything is to know their father. He has served over 20 years. This is not retribution. This is injustice, this is taking away his ability to prove that he has learned from his mistakes. If he doesn't get this opportunity, this state has shown that they are not in the business of protecting their citizens and correcting them with care when they are wrong. Please reconsider his case.</p>
Harvey	Bryant	Past President, Va.Assoc. of Commonwealth's Attys,Past Chair Va.State Bar Criminal Law Section,Past member,Va.Sentencing Commission	Virginia Beach	Proposed criminal law and procedure changes	<p>Eliminating no knock search warrants will endanger and/or disincentivize LEOs and result in destruction of evidence. If a magistrate's or judge's judgement of the facts & need for no knock are not sufficient, require the Commonwealth's Attorneys office to review and sign off on the affidavit.</p> <p>Judges and lawmakers need to see how citizen juries assess the seriousness of crimes in their jurisdictions. Eliminating jury sentencing will result in many more jury trials, raising the expense of the justice system and clogging up the system even more. Many jury trials in serious cases are already taking 2 yrs. or even more to come to trial, usually because of defense motions that result in continuances. Guilty defendants don't want a speedy trial, but the victims sure do.</p> <p>Jury sentencing only at the option of the defendant will only be used by those ignoring their attorney. Defendants and their attorneys know that citizens are tougher sentencers in most of our cities and counties than many judges.</p> <p>Warning shots are dangerous . Where does the officer fire that shot? If that's a requirement, won't officers pull their weapon much earlier in an encounter so they'll be ready to fire the warning shot before they can eliminate the threat to themselves, fellow officers and the public? How long will they wait between the warning shot and an aimed shot ?Will it only apply to fleeing felons? Clearly armed robbers threatening the 7-11 clerk?</p> <p>If committee members have never ridden a night shift with our LEOs ,you should.</p> <p>BTW, after 4 years in the Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorneys office, I practiced criminal defense in state and federal courts in Tidewater for 8 yrs, before joining the US Attorneys Office as a criminal prosecutor, eventually supervisor for 13 years, after which I became Commonwealth's Attorney in Va.Beach for 14 yrs.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on these important issues.</p>
ROBERT	STEWART	SALT	FAIRFAX	PRISONER PAY FOR MANDATED LABOR	<p>All workers deserve reasonable pay for their labor. Imprisoned individuals are no different; they deserve a reasonable wage for their mandated prison labor. Prisoner pay in Virginia is a median of about 29 cents an hour, meaning that: 1) an incarcerated parent cannot pay the full amount of child-support obligations, resulting in thousands of dollars in debt at the time of release; and 2) imprisoned people are perpetually in debt trying to obtain basic necessities and paying for phone calls to their families. Therefore, Social Action Linking Together (SALT), to address this economic injustice, proposes that Virginia pass legislation providing reasonable compensation of at least \$3.00 an hour for prison workers.</p> <p>Paying prisoners a real wage would give them more incentive to pay their court-imposed fines, restitution orders, and child support. It would also permit savings for the inmates' eventual release and re-entry into society.</p> <p>Incarceration should not be a reason for failing to pay a reasonable wage to the imprisoned who work. The current situation can best be described as counter-productive for rehabilitation and re-entry purposes. Mandated labor without just compensation is a human rights abuse and a holdover from Jim Crow laws that perpetuate poverty. We can begin to end this human rights abuse by raising prison pay rates.</p> <p>Without paying the incarcerated fair wages, inmates have no funds to cover the immediate outside costs for food and housing. We are essentially destroying all chances at successful reintegration upon release, by failing to compensate prison workers fairly.</p>

Across Virginia, many recently incarcerated people do not have access to identification, due to the stringent requirements set by the REAL ID Act and VA DMV. The DMV requires a person to provide several pieces of documentation including: 1 proof of social security number, 1 proof of legal presence, 1 proof of identification, and 2 proofs of VA residency. Additionally, there is a \$10-16 dollar fee.

Studies have found that the rate of homelessness among the recently released is 10 times that of the general population. Once a person is homeless, it becomes incredibly difficult for them to gather the required documentation and funds to receive an ID. It is especially challenging to prove residency, since PO Boxes and business addresses do not count.

Without an ID, recently released people cannot:

- Fill out an I-9 to get a job
- Fill a prescription
- Rent an apartment/ hotel room
- Access money in a bank account

Lack of ID virtually forces people into homelessness where they are more likely to be reincarcerated. Homeless people are more likely to have interactions with law enforcement, and many activities (loitering for example) become potential offenses. Without ID, a person can be detained under suspicion of giving a false name.

Virginia has a program to help inmates receive ID, but it is inefficient and inconsistent.

DMV Connect allows DMV employees to visit correctional facilities and act as a mobile DMV office, issuing IDs to people with the right documentation.

DMV Connect is most consistent at state prisons, with an average of 1 visit every 60 days with 15 IDs issued per visit. However, there is significant variation per facility.

Lawrenceville Prison, a medium security facility with a population of approximately 1590, was only visited 3 times in 2019. 18 IDs were issued.

Jails and Sheriff's offices account for 1/3 of the incarcerated population in Virginia, but only 24.5% of the IDs issued in 2019.

Robert	Stewart	SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)	FAIRFAX	VALID ID FOR PRISONERS UPON THEIE RELEASE
--------	---------	---	---------	--

- 43 jails and sheriff's offices(60.5%) were not visited in 2019

Lakedria	Brock		Newportnews Va	Expand earn sentences credit
William	Smith Sr	None	Lynchburg	William Smith Sr.

To whom it may concern please pass the legislation to expand earned sentences credit to ALL that's behind bars during the upcoming special session as it originally submitted by delegate Scott. Prison sentences affects more than just the person behind bars it affects families and communities also .My family has been infected by mass incarceration my fiancé is a great person everyone makes mistakes but also everyone deserves a second chance at life . He been behind bars since he was 17 he ready to be 26 his first time ever being in trouble I have witnessed the growth and the man he is becoming he is currently been charge free now he currently in college take 2 classes GED and business management and is passing both classes . I really hope this bill be passed for justice and freedom . "Everyone deserves a second chance " . Thanks stay blessed and stay safe 🙏🏾

Mandatory minimums are extremely important to child victims,

One of my children was molested at the age of eight years old, by his father, who I will call FR going forward. When I found out what had happened and we began our journey through the court system, we had no idea what was going to happen to FR, or where he would be, or for how long. All three of my children were afraid. FR was arrested, and bailed out, and free to wander the valley. We ran into him on one occasion and their fear was real. Once he was rearrested, we finally had some relief.

During the investigation I learned of the mandatory minimums for these crimes. Knowing this, allowed me to explain to my children how the law would protect them in the future. With the amount of evidence found in this case, I was sure he would be found guilty, and knew that he would spend years in prison. I just prayed it would be enough to keep him away from our family until the children were grown.

As time got closer to trial and sentencing, knowing that FR was in the local jail, my children didn't even like driving past the building. They would ask if FR could see us. They wanted assurance that they were safe.

FR was found guilty and sentenced to 85 years with 15 suspended. He was then transferred to prison a few months later, and was no longer in our area.

FR's sentence consisted of mandatory minimums for most of the charges against him. Those years, being mandatory, gave my family the much-needed relief we had been waiting for. Very little of his sentence was able to be suspended, and we live with our minds at ease today because of it.

Our family healed and moved forward without fear. Our new normal was not an easy transition, but it certainly helped to know that we were free of FR.

Today, my children are grown, and they are starting families of their own. I have one grandchild, and know that he too will be safe because of the sentence handed down to FR.

We are all very thankful for the mandatory minimums.

I do want you to think about the alternative though. Think about this situation without the mandatory minimums. Prison may not have been the punishment. He may have stayed in jail instead for a much shorter time. I dare to think about the mental stress that situation would have placed on my family. The children may have continued to be afraid to drive by the jail. They probably would have been afraid of FR being released. And if that had happened, they would most

Carol	Turner	Roanoke	Mandatory Minimums
Cara	Cutro	Sperryville	Good Time Earned Credits

Hello. I wanted to voice my support of good time credits for ALL offenders, not only non-violent offenders. Thank you.

Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My cousin was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.

Megan	Dansey	Chesapeake	Earned Sentence Credits
Forrest	Tibbs	Hanover County, VA	Mandatory minimum sentences

As a retired police officer, I saw firsthand that mandatory minimum sentences help reduce crime. We should keep the mandatory minimums.

Good morning my name is Renee Robinson, I'm a Political Prisoner Activist and Advocate. I'm also the President of the Norfolk Va. Chapter: Humanities Behind Bars". My concern today is the number of inmates housed in St Brides who either have or has had multiple symptoms of this Covid-19. My son is one of the inmates in building 130 who has been sick for weeks with no proper medical attention. He's been having fevers, loss of smell & taste, muscle aches & pains, shortness of breath, that's causing trouble to breathe. My son & numerous amounts of inmates have reached out to me with the same symptoms and have not received any medical attention either. Then I watched the Wavy News 10 story about the virus in St.Brides and they made it seem like they have everything under control and all is well. That is an outright lie and I'm appalled. From the offenders, I've heard that there are (at the time of the story) 262 inmates in the building affected and at least 79 C.O.'s/staff members/administration who has also contracted this virus. What concerns me the most is the fact that the employees are the ones who gave it to the inmates, because none of them leave the building, yet they have it and are not receiving proper care. Another concern I have is will they wait until our loved ones die and tell the family and friends that they are sorry for our loss. They will not be able to tell me that. My son is a first-time offender and his offense has nothing to do with getting proper medical care in a facility. What I do know is the lies St. Brides is telling like getting the inmates any kind of care. It took was close to two years before my son got a tooth pulled, which was causing him severe pain, swelling, weight loss from not eating, & bad headaches. I contacted other Advocates, who contacted the Director of The D.O.C. for my son to be seen. Documented cases show people have died from the bacteria in your mouth from a decayed tooth. This prison treats these men like animals and no one listens. It's not their job to be judge and jury of the inmates, to belittle them, to antagonize them, to incite anger in them to the extent of a riot, and then the C.O.s dressed in riot gear, rubber bullets, real ammunition, beaten with batons, and the brutality goes on. St. Brides is not the only prison/jail that needs to be under a microscope. There are 77 jails in the state of Virginia, ran like modern-day plantations because no one holds the Wardens, the State, the City, the Mayors, the Delegates accountable for the lies they tell to get elected and then their promises never come to fruition. This prison has not offered most of the sick inmates anything for the pain, but they will definitely give them an infraction for getting some ice, or not getting off their bunk quick enough for count, take away their good time for bogus write-ups from the C.O.'s I know plenty of inmates from different jails/prisons who get them. Mass incarceration is one thing, but to be subjected to daily foolishness is another. This needs to stop. Someone needs to look into the prisoners in Greenville in the hole/the box. They forget to feed these men 3 times a day. Even a dog gets fed but because there are no consequences the vicious cycle continues. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns, I appreciate your time. I strongly would like to see a change in these areas. Please feel free to contact me at (757) 401-3914 or send me an email at msbuttons725@aol.com.

Renee	Robinson	Humanities Behind Bars	Norfolk	To discuss the mismanagement of the offenders in St. Brides during the Covid-19 pandemic
-------	----------	------------------------	---------	--

					<p>On June 7th, InsideNoVa.com reported Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. saying: "We have a problem in our profession," he added. "We do disproportionately use force in the African-American community, and we need to understand why."</p> <p>During the week of June 25th, the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) released its 2019 Use of Force Report. Jeffrey McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors stated: "We are one of the few police departments in the Commonwealth of Virginia to produce a use of force report. While use of force incidents are rare overall in Fairfax County, about 45% of those subject to force are African American. This is troublesome because African Americans make up less than 10% of the population."</p> <p>Use of force policy is outlined in FCPD's General Order 540.0. It establishes the following guidelines for officers to pay "careful attention to when determining whether force is objectively reasonable": does the individual pose immediate threat to the officer or others; the severity of the crime; is the individual actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest; weapon(s) involved; presence of officers or individuals, training, age, size and strength of the officer; training, age, size, and strength of the individual; and environmental conditions.</p> <p>The FCPD 2019 Use of Force Report documents 688 use of force incidents out of 491, 682 calls for service. The same report provides the demographics. Of the 688 members, 315 were Black. This is where Mr. McKay gets his 'about 45%'. In 2019, out of a county population of 1,166,965, 113,196 were black, or 9.7%. This is where Mr. McKay gets his "African Americans make up less than 10% of the population."</p> <p>Douglas Kay, Chair, FCPD Police Civilian Review Panel, briefed the Fairfax County Public Safety Committee on July 21, 2020. He stated: "Where the evidence gathered during an investigation into a complaint of racial bias does not offer a race-neutral explanation for the conduct of the accused officer, the FCPD should continue to investigate seeking some explanation for the officer's conduct by obtaining reasonably available evidence that will corroborate either a race-neutral or race-biased explanation such as examining the officer's social media accounts and/or interviewing witnesses." (Police Civilian Review Panel 2019 Annual Report, p.9). This statement appears to direct the FCPD to assume the officer acted in a 'race-biased' manner unless there is evidence to prove otherwise.</p> <p>Chairman McKay's and the Police Chief's comments have roiled the FCPD. On July 15th, the Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police said officers "no longer have confidence in your [Chief Roessler] ability to be the Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department." Officers on the street have been limiting their interaction with the public and have been hesitating to use force even when appropriate, which is a safety issue for all parties concerned."</p> <p>I challenge Mr. McKay, the Police Chief, the Police Civilian Review Panel, and others broadcasting 'disproportionate use of force' by the FCPD to reexamine their interpretation of the facts. Their attempt to create the perception of racism is misguided at best and a fabrication at worst. They should publicly apologize publicly to the FCPD and to their constituents. They are maligning the FCPD and promoting the existence of racism where it does not exist.</p>
Sandra	Ellis			How Racism is Being Introduced into Fairfax Station Fairfax County, Virginia	
Semhar	Estephanos	Myself	Baltimore	Expanding earned sentence credits	<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My cousin was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
Renee	Robinson	Humanities Behind Bars	Norfolk	Good time for ALL offenders	<p>My name is Renee Robinson, Please excuse me for forgetting to add this to my testimony. I am also in full support of good time earned credits for ALL offenders. There should also be a way that the good time the offenders do earn is not taking away from them on the word of just one C.O. or a disgruntled inmate who couldn't get to the phone. Penalizing them on top of their charge, just because you have the power is an absolute abuse of power. Thank you for your time.</p>
Haile	Mesghinna		Arlington		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My son, Estifanos Mesghinna, was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>
Michael	Robertson		Hanover	Police, mandatory minimums	<p>Police should be in schools, sets a presence, should be paid well. Mandatory minimums should not change, if anything raise the minimum!! Quick feeling sorry for someone who has been convicted of a crime and let them and others learn from doing wrong!</p>
Angela	Drumheller		Doswell	Police Reform	
Tara	Matthews		Spotsylvania	Good time earning credits	<p>I DO NOT agree with any defunding of our police forces. Our officers should remain in our schools as well. Our children get the opportunity to interact with officers in a positive way. Which will have a positive affect on them in the future. I also think that it should be a crime to attack a police officer, they are there to do a job, which most people will not sign up to do. Why would you allow a criminal to attack a police officer and not get penalized for it, that in itself is ridiculous?? I don't understand what this country is coming to where criminals get to make choices for the rest of. Why are we even entertaining the notion of reducing our protection? With all of the lawlessness going on in this country we should be incentivizing people to join our police departments, not talking about defunding them. When did the MOB start ruling??? Don't forget the government is there to protect us, not to allow MOB'S to rule.</p> <p>I support the good time earning credits.</p>

				<p>My nephew is Steven Daniel Cline (inmate 1190349) currently incarcerated at Wallens Ridge state prison for a felony. He and some other men robbed a known drug dealer. While the robbery was happening, one of the other men in his group shot and killed the drug dealer. My nephew testified against the other robbers. He did have a gun, but did not use it. My nephew was given sentences to be served consecutively instead of concurrently, and will be in prison until he is in his 60's. He was in his 20's when this crime was committed. To date, he has been in prison for more than 15 years, and is not due to be released until 7/7/2064. He received a sentence of 136 years. This is his one and only time being sent to prison. He was originally incarcerated in Sussex, was moved to Buckingham because of good behavior. He was moved to Wallens Ridge because he was caught with a cell phone.</p> <p>While at Buckingham, he was taking courses through the community college and doing excellent work. In fact he was attending a class when he was moved to Wallens Ridge. He also held various jobs which he did with competence and skill. He was reliable and dependable. He is a very intelligent man who had no support growing up and has made some terrible mistakes. Perhaps if he had killed someone, I would think his sentence more justified. However, he did not. I believe that he should be able to serve his sentences concurrently, and that parole should be considered for him.</p> <p>I am a retired educator and spent more than 20 years working with children from troubled homes. I can tell you that Steven came from such a home. While I could intervene very little while he was growing up, I have been instrumental in providing him with emotional and financial support since his incarceration. My original goal while he was at Buckingham was to finance his first two college years. As you know, course offerings are very limited, but he took several semesters and did extremely well. He was motivated and excited about what he was learning. He also enthusiastically read supporting materials provide to him by me. He is articulate and has a thirst for knowledge.</p> <p>Steven has not developed what I call a "prisoner personality." He doesn't have a tough countenance, nor is he cocky or surly. He has earned a modicum of respect from the other prisoners. The evidence for me making this statement is that he has not been in any altercations while at Wallen's Ridge. He loves and respects his mother, has a productive relationship with his long-time girlfriend, and they hope to marry. If paroled, he will continue to have my emotional and financial support until he can finish undergraduate school. I intend to open my home to him and my assistance in negotiating academic life. In short, he will not just be "let out" with no plan for survival, but will be welcomed into a stable, loving home which will give him the support he needs. I have no doubt that he can, and will, make appropriate decisions, graduate from college, and become a productive member of society.</p> <p>As you can tell, Steven is very dear to me. I know him well, and because of my background and training, I have been able to assess his personality with a good degree of impartiality and insight. I would be very happy to talk with anyone who is involved in making these decisions. My phone number is 828 774 7662. Thank you for reading this.</p> <p>Loretta Easton, MEd, EdS.</p>
Loretta	Easton	Buncombe NC	Parole and serving sentences concurrently.	
Carol	Halbert	Chesterfield	Defund the police	<p>Please use common sense and stop wasting time devaluing our police. We need to give them unflagging support. These people are our heroes. In today's world, we need our heroes. They have such a hard job. They risk their lives for us. This discussion is foolish and a waste of time and money. Defend the police--not this other ridiculous slogan</p>
Jonathan	Marlow	Fairfax	criminal justice reform (procedural mechanics of the criminal justice process)	<p>The following is a list of legislative recommendations proposed for eliminating some of the inappropriate and often unfair procedural mechanics that have developed in the criminal justice process and interfere with the fairness and equal treatment in the process. Their implementation will contribute to improving the relationship between law enforcement and the general public and result in a fairer criminal justice process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Grand Jury. Eliminate the Virginia Grand Jury or reform the procedures to allow the accused's attorney to question the prosecutor and witnesses as well as present exculpatory evidence. The Grand Jury does not appear to strengthen the search for justice. It is an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and expense. Many states have already eliminated their use. 2. Civil Asset Forfeiture. Eliminate civil asset forfeiture and the selling of property confiscated by law enforcement during an arrest and investigative procedure. Law enforcement often retains property confiscated during an arrest and subsequent criminal investigation even if the property has no relevance to the prosecution of the case. All property confiscated by law enforcement must be required to be returned to the proper owner regardless of the outcome of the case unless proven that the property was acquired through illegal means and approved by a judge. 3. Trial by Ambush. Require all potentially incriminating or exculpatory evidence to be turned over to the accused as it is made available to the prosecutor's office. Require prosecutors to detail which specific piece of evidence is believed to justify each charge against a defendant 60 days prior to offering the defendant a plea deal. The current law allows Virginia prosecutors to withhold evidence intended for presentation during trial until immediately before trial. This practice can prohibit the defense from adequately examining the evidence and preparing a viable defense before the trial begins. 4. Virtual Court Proceedings. Prohibit virtual court proceedings of any type using video/audio communications in which the accused is not allowed to be present in the courtroom alongside the defense attorney in all but the most extenuating circumstances. Virtual proceedings make a guarantee of attorney-client privilege impossible during the proceeding. Require prosecutors to justify the use of virtual court proceedings in writing based on other than administrative ease, and require a judge to approve the request in writing on a case-by-case basis before virtual proceedings are initiated. Documentation justifying and approving virtual court proceedings shall be retained in the accused's court record. 5. Should Have Known. Remove the term "should have known" from all criminal statutes. The term is unreasonably vague and subject to interpretation and can too easily result in an unfair conviction or plea deal. The goal of law enforcement should be to arrest criminals, not turn otherwise innocent citizens into criminals whose lives are forever marred or outright destroyed. <p>(I am being forced to send this in multiple submissions due to the lack of space allotted here, please paste the multiple submissions together to get all 15 recommendations. This is part one. Thank you.)</p>

J-Lynn	Van Pelt	Removal of SRO Officers from Schools and Removing Assault and Battery of a Law Enforcement Officer Alexandria City	<p>I am a parent and I have worked as an educator for 21 years. I have seen the direct harm that having school resource officers does to students and the school community as a whole. Especially when, like in Virginia, they are required to report felonies that have occurred. If a student made an impulsive decision, even if it causes no harm and is easily resolved, SRO's are required to report something as simple as picking up a phone a student finds on the ground as a felony. Which can change a child's entire life. SROs have no place in our schools. I am also asking that the charge of Assault and Battery of a Law Enforcement Officer be removed from law. It is used as a weapon against community members, especially community members of color and those with disabilities or mental illness. It is a felony with a minimum required sentence that officers have weaponized against vulnerable populations for years and that has to change. If a child or a person with a disability kicks an officer in fear, if they brush an officer with their arm when they react in fear to being handcuffed, if a person in a mental health crisis gestures and accidentally bumps an officers arm, this is not assault. It is not battery. Yet officers use this charge. All the time. This charge is a direct threat to my children's future. You see, I am raising three beautiful children all of which have special needs, two are African American. My oldest has numerous developmental disabilities. When afraid, when in a fight or flight response due to her disabilities, she is incapable of complying to demands or force. Even though she is only 11, I worry every time the police are involved. In the last two years, I have had to engage help with the police 5 times. She spent 6 months of last year in a mental health crisis and even working with the CSB, medicaid, and having a crisis team assigned to her, we had to call the police for help. Each time we tried to reach the Crisis Team first and they could not respond because they were already in the field with another client. And they lacked funding to have more than one crisis intervention specialist on call. Every time the police were called, I feared for my child's life. I worried that the wrong cop would respond and escalate a situation instead of deescalate. I worried that a CTU trained officer would not be available to respond. Because when melting down, my beautiful daughter panics and she curses, screams, kicks, and tries to get away, if restrained. I should not have to worry that if my child resists restraint as part of her developmental disability that she will be charged with a felony as it has been done to many Virginians in mental health crisis, including children. This should be a point of shame for all legislators. And especially these committees on Public Safety and Courts of Justice. And this happens at schools all of the time because SROs are there and they view behavior from disabilities through a lens of criminality and are mandated to report any observed felonies even if fully trained mental health personnel are appropriately responding. This body has a duty to change this. I again ask that you work to remove SROs from schools, better fund crisis response teams and mental health services, especially for children, and that you abolish section c that allows officers to charge a felony of assault and battery of a law enforcement officer and weaponize this as both a threat and a retaliation. Please</p>
Jonathan	Marlow	Fairfax criminal justice reform (procedural mechanics of the criminal justice process)	<p>(Part 2 of 3)</p> <p>6. One-party Consent.Require Virginia law enforcement to establish that all parties are located in a one-party consent state before recording any telecommunications or texting involving anyone other than law enforcement without a valid warrant issued by a Virginia judge. Failure to obtain a valid warrant in advance must be made a punishable felony for any law enforcement involved and all evidence gathered using electronic recordings must not be allowed in a trial or other court proceeding.</p> <p>7. Appointment of Public Defender.Require a public defender to be appointed and visit with the accused within 24 hours of an arrest if requested by a suspect being held in jail.</p> <p>8. Lying to Suspects.Prohibit law enforcement officers and prosecutors from lying to a suspect/defendant or their attorney that might unfairly impact the suspect's willingness to falsely admit to a crime or related aspect of a crime, or otherwise violate a suspect's constitutional rights or mislead the suspect regarding the law and rights, such as threatening more severe jail time for failing to admit to a crime. Lying by law enforcement, even in the pursuit of truth, can result in a loss of the public's faith and confidence in all law enforcement from individual officers, to prosecutors, and even judges.</p> <p>9. Presumptive Charges.Eliminate the designation of criminal charges as "presumptive" and require the withholding of bail to be decided by a judge on a case by case basis after a hearing in which the prosecutor must justify withholding bail and the accused's attorney is given the opportunity to challenge the prosecutor's request.The presumptive statute presumes a suspect is dangerous or guilty without a hearing and before being found guilty at trial. Incarceration for extended periods while awaiting trial can unfairly cost the defendant a job, a home, or the defendant's family without due process. 10. Mandatory Minimums.Eliminate all mandatory minimum sentences contained in criminal statutes. Mandatory minimums have resulted in erosion of judicial discretion critical to ensuring fair prosecutorial behavior before and during trial proceedings and outright loss of judicial control over the courtroom. Mandatory minimums fail to allow for differences in sentencing when differences in circumstances exist among similar crimes that can best be sorted out by a judge. Fairness in sentencing requires a return to allowing judges to apply a rational and independent analysis of the circumstances of each case.</p>

				(part 3 of 3) 11. Piling on Charges. Require prosecutors to clearly identify the evidence associated with each charge and make the information part of the prosecution's presentation to the Grand Jury and provide the information to the defendant upon request. Anything less, often makes it impossible for the defendant or his attorney to understand the nature of the charges and can force a decision regarding a plea deal offered by the prosecutors on less than a full understanding of the charges and the evidence. Current law allows judges to refuse to force prosecutors to provide this information. This is a particularly troubling problem in cases involving texting, wiretaps, and emails. 12. Cash Bail. Eliminate cash bail in favor of release from jail pending trial on the defendants' personal recognizance or unsecured bail. Cash bail often allows an accused person with adequate financial resources to be released pending trial and prevents an accused person without financial resources from being released under similar circumstances. 13. Prosecutor and Judge Behavior. Hold judges and prosecutors accountable for improper behavior in their official duties such as, ignoring evidence of violations of law enforcement policies and procedures, including, but not limited to threatening suspects with violence, stiffer sentencing, and failing to obtain and follow court approved "sting" procedures. Subject all courts and prosecutors and their offices to periodic no-notice inspection by the state inspector general's office. Establish penalties for improper behavior up to and including jail time, disbarment, and loss of retirement. 14. Suppression Hearings. Require the granting of suppression hearings within 30 days of a request from a defendant. Failure to offer a hearing in a timely manner or waiting to hold a suppression hearing until immediately preceding trial can result in the defendant being forced to finance preparation for trial by his defense attorney that might otherwise be avoided. Also, unnecessary pre-trial incarceration might be avoided. 15. Stings. Limit "Stings" to only those circumstances for which law enforcement has received a special type of warrant in advance, to be called a "Sting Warrant," approved by a judge, not a magistrate. The application for a "Sting Warrant" must contain the following: a. Evidence of sufficient criminal activity to justify a "sting;" b. Procedures for objectively identifying and selecting "sting" targets --targets selected must show predisposition to the criminal behavior on which the "sting" is focused; c. Copy of agreements with and among all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies as to how the "sting" shall be conducted; d. Copy of federal and state investigation standards (e.g., ICAC Standards) that must be followed, e. Charge that will be filed against anyone arrested as a result of the "sting; f. Actions that will be taken to avoid entrapment, such as enticing or encouraging a target to violate a criminal (or civil) statute; and g. a Requirement to provide a suspect/defendant with a copy of the warrant upon their arrest, and a copy shall be filed with the arrest warrant. Failure to obtain a "Sting Warrant" in advance of conducting a sting, or failure to comply with the terms of the warrant shall result in a criminal charge against the lead law enforcement officer(s) conducting the sting.
Jonathan	Marlow		Fairfax	criminal justice reform (procedural mechanics of the criminal justice process)
Cindy	Straub	I feel that as a conservative my thoughts and concerns are no longer considered	Ruther Glen	If Trump is not elected this term, we will become a socialist or communist country
Leonard	Mccall		Chesterfield	Mandatory Minimums, Jury Minimums, all Guidelines, Judicial Vacancies
Karen	Wolfe	Concerns of Police Survivors	Dillwyn	Criminal Justice Issues
Ingo	Christ		SPRINGFIELD, Va	HB 1532
tony	gyepi-garbrah		Washington, D.C.	Reform
Tamika	Townes		Campbell	To much time for the crime

				As a taxpayer and legal citizen, I am totally opposed to certain demands being made by House Democratic Committee members. These include removing law enforcement officers from schools, cutting police budgets and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for offenses including serious crimes of murder, rape, and assault with a weapon. The main function of government is to protect citizens. That is what government officials are elected to do. The citizens pay their salaries for this service. They work for the citizens! They are not a law unto themselves. If they cannot or chose not to protect and work for the community they need to be removed from office. Lawlessness does not need the assistance of our elected government officials. One does not witness elected officials whose short-sighted behavior – such as abolishing mandatory sentences of professional criminals – contributing anything to the good of all citizens. Such malfeasance is testimony to how much they hate us and our children. Abolition of mandatory sentences for those who commit heinous crimes against the police and us, including crimes committed with guns, is the equivalent of removing the impediments that keep all of us safe. They become willing accomplices of those who would harm us. These accomplices to criminals must be disposed of.
Lucian	Work	Fairfax County	Protection of Our Citizens	
Symone	Taylor	D'Andre Rainey	HAMPTON	Good Time Law for All violent and non violent offenders
Dihann	Geier	Chesapeake	law enforcement issues	I am for the good time law! It will help motivate inmates in to bring and getting back home to their families. Please do NOT remove law enforcement from schools-are you kidding?? Do NOT cut police budgets. And please do not lower mandatory minimums for crimes. Please do not turn VA into NYC.
Joshua	Lam	Rockingham County		If these purposed laws are passed, there will be no benefit to the law abiding public. This will only lead to further violence against the innocent and more violent protests. We the people of Virginia do not support any of these purposals.
Rebecca	Lydon	Alexandria	Prison Sentence Reduction	Keeping people in prison creates a huge burden on our society. Please consider any means necessary to shorten or eliminate sentences for all prisoners who are able to have good behavior. Thank you in advance for making improvements in this matter. Sincerely, Rebecca Lydon
Haben	Ghermazien	Oakland		Our judicial system doesn't always get it right. And when it does, we have different sentences being doled out for the same crimes. To be the victim of a violent crime is dehumanizing. And to be judged based on the worst thing you've ever done is also dehumanizing. The point is that until we can have a equally representative judiciary system, it's our job to ensure that we're consistently examining the decisions made by our peers until they are actually made OUR peers.
Dewanna	Sims	Hampton	Earned sentence credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My Son was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you. Over the past few months, we've heard a lot of narratives put forth by both politicians and the mainstream press. One of those narratives is of course, that there is systemic bias against black Americans among America's police. However, that narrative is easily disproven when analyzing the data. According to the Washington Post, in 2019 there were 9 unarmed black suspects killed by police. That same year there were 19 unarmed whites killed. In 2018 there were 17 unarmed blacks killed by police. 17 is .002% of the 7,407 black Americans killed in homicides that year, 90% of whom were killed by black criminals. A study conducted at Harvard by a man named Roland Fryer, found that police are more likely to use lethal force against white suspects than black suspects and also found that police are more hesitant to pull the trigger on a black suspect than on a white suspect. Similar conclusions were found by a study at Washington State University, as well a joint study conducted by Michigan State and the University of Maryland. A study by the National Academy of Sciences found that white officers were no more likely than black or Hispanic officers to use lethal force on black suspects and that it is a racial group's rate of violent crime that determines police shootings, not the race of the officer. The more frequently officers encounter violent suspects from any given racial group, the greater the chance that members of that racial group will be shot by a police officer. According to our own CDC, police killings of black suspects has declined 75% over the past 30-40 years. I could continue with many more studies and statistics, but I think that you get the point.
Shawn	Fleetwood	Fredericksburg	Police	<p>What happened to George Floyd was a travesty, and those who took part in his death should face the consequences. However, what happened to Mr. Floyd is not indicative of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who bravely serve their communities day in and day out. These are brave patriots who want nothing more than to serve their country and communities. As the grandson of a police officer, it breaks my heart to see the grotesque treatment our police receive from politicians, media pundits, and everyday citizens.</p> <p>It's also important to point out that when you further degrade police and prevent them from doing their jobs, crime rises. For instance, in 2015 a study by the National Institute of Justice found that homicides increased 17% in over 50 of America's largest cities. This is commonly known as the Ferguson Effect, wherein police back off of proactive policing, out of fear of being smeared as racist, which results in more crime being committed. It's also worth pointing out that "hands up don't shoot" in Ferguson never happened and that the shooting of Michael Brown was completely justified as confirmed by an investigation conducted by Pres. Obama's DOJ.</p> <p>Yet as politicians and media pundits continuously break down trust between police and high crime, low income communities, they fail to realize that their rhetoric will ultimately leave us with more of our black American brothers and sisters lying dead in the streets. Not from police, but from violent criminals.</p> <p>It's time to stop demonizing police and time to start supporting police. We must give them the resources they need to protect our communities. Thank you all so much for taking the time to listen to my comments. God bless you all and God bless the US</p>

Barbara	Williams	Virginia beache Virginia	Good time earned credits bill	I have a son thats locked up, been locked up for 20yrs. He took responsibility learned his lesson. I believe he and others like him should get second chance. I support delegate Don Scott bill. Thank you
Robert	Mitchell	Greene	Gun control and the support of law enforcement	On behalf of law enforcement, I urge you to not defund any law enforcement agency. The cause of racism is not at stake here, but politics and virtue signaling are. In addition, as has been evident in Richmond of late, and various other metropolitan areas, this is inhibiting police action in the face of violent rioters. Not protesting, but rioting. People's lives, livelihoods, safety are all being put at risk. Do not further endanger the citizens by protecting rioters. In regards to gun control, I urge you all to consider that the actions you take in this regard will brand you as Patriot or traitor. Violating your oaths to uphold both state and federal constitutions is a betrayal of your citizens, your true constituents, not those who stashed cash into your election funds. Franklin said that trading liberty for security ensured you'd find neither. Those in leadership positions who do so reveal themselves as tyrannical. Sic semper tyrannis.
Danielle	Small	Chesapeake	Parole	Bring back Parole
Hagos	Haile	Springfield, VA	Allowing credit for early release	This is particularly relating to Estifanos Haile Mesghinna. He was sentenced to 42 years. This is unconscionable. He has served over 16 years with good behavior and an impressive academic achievement. It is time that his sentence be commuted. Definitely 16 years will teach one what lessons he needs to learn about a crime. It certainly is more than enough to rehabilitate one. Mr. Mesghinna is fully rehabilitated now. I'm writing this in support of the organization and Mr. Misghenna. Thank you.
Sandra	Carter	Mechanicsville Va	Good time credits and parole in Virginia	My family and I support good time credits and bringing back parole to Virginia. We believe in second chances. Inmates need to have hope knowing their time could be shortened by good behavior. This will make them want to achieve and live at a higher standard (even in bad conditions) knowing they may get to come home sooner. I am a RN. I never in my lifetime thought I would be living in this nightmare. My son is in CVRJ he was encouraged to plea guilty for charges he did not intend. We were mislead by our 1st attorney. My son Cole has never had a record. NEVER he was sentenced to 25 years 7 months. The justice system is sad and even worse is the DA or Commonwealth attorney whom are hungry for the win at any cost and over sentencing. Our son was over sentenced. Please stop this. We pray to spend time with our son before we pass away. I used to be one of those people who said, you do the crime, you do the time. Now that I have been educated on what goes on with incarceration. I believe differently. Bring back parole and give hope to inmates with good time credits and watch them have something to work towards. Thank you, The Carter family.
Jennifer	Cline	Montgomery, AL	Expand Earned Sentence Credit Bill for All	Thank you for considering expanding the Earned Sentence Credit Bill for ALL. My brother-in-law is in jail in VA and will be for his entire adult life - he went in in his early 20s. Under the law as it stands now, he will over 80 before he can get out. He committed a crime and deserved to be punished, but mandatory time puts him away for far longer than is reasonable for his crime and the judge had no ability to give leniency even though he wanted to. Although he has totally changed his life; it is hard to stay focused on improving himself and following the rules when there is no parole in VA and the current ESC doesn't help much. Please expand this bill and ensure it applies to all prisoners. This would be an incentive for prisoners to improve themselves and to make good choices while in jail. This helps the prisoners, the guards who oversee them, and it will give hope to the prisoners' loved ones who also suffer in so many ways. Having prisoners with no hope is not a good situation for anyone and does not benefit any of the purposes of punishment. This VA system (mandatory sentences with no parole and little earned credit) provides no rehabilitation for prisoners, and specific/general deterrence, retribution, and incapacitation quickly reach a point of diminishing returns. Expanding the earned sentence credit bill will still ensure these last 3 purposes are met, while also providing hope (and rehabilitation) for prisoners and their families. Thank you for considering my words. Please approve this bill.
Tim	Cline	Montgomery, Alabama	Expand Earned Sentence Credit Bill For All	We want the earned sentence credit bill to be expanded for all. We have a dear relative incarcerated for a sentence that will extend into his 80s. There are murderers having served less time. Please expand this important bill and give decent (yet flawed) humans a second chance at life!
Sean	lewis	Suffolk		He has been an influential part of the hiphop culture providing managerial support to many artists. A number of people have been affected by this loss to our community.
Cameron	Broughton	Madison Heights		William Smith Jr.
Rena	Wilson	North Chesterfield	Earned Sentence Credits	It is counterproductive to rehabilitation and a waste of tax payer's money to keep individuals in prison after they have done all they can do to improve their lives and correct their behavior. Passing legislation to expand earned sentence credits will help to reduce the prison's population, which in turn will reduce the money spent on operating prisons. Another benefit to expanding the earned sentence credit is that the incentive for incarcerated individuals to rehabilitate will be enhanced. Of course, ALL incarcerated individuals—violent and non-violent—must be included in the legislation, so that it is fair and just, and so that a holistic environment is created in the prisons. The focus should not be whether or not a person has committed a non-violent crime or a violent crime. Instead, the main focus should be on whether or not a person has been truly dedicated to changing their life, which a violent offender would have to be dedicated if they were to earn a substantial amount of time off their sentence, since their sentence is much longer than those of non-violent offenders.
Jozae	Lewis	Warrenton VA	Expand the earned sentence credit for good behavior.	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Brothers and husband Are good people needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Christine	Cavaleri	Self	Fairfax County, Clifton	We have lived happily in Fairfax County for many years and have felt very safe, knowing that we had a strong police force guarding the community. We are concerned that minimizing police presence in a growing community will inevitably lead to less effective coverage overall. It is difficult to imagine how cuts can be applied to the police budget without bringing about a less safe environment and the idea that penalties for assault on members of the police force could be minimized leads one to wonder why one would choose to weaken the force designed to protect each one of us.
branson	murrill	Hanover	Law enforcement etc.	DO NOT reduce penalties for assaulting a police officer. DO NOT cut police budgets or remove officers from schools. That is inviting trouble and more violence. DO NOT eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for violent offenders. They need to be taken off the streets, for increasingly longer periods for repeat offenders.

				<p>I Strongly Support The Good Time Bill And Parole Reinstatement.</p> <p>I have two people in my life that I love dearly My husband who is incarcerated at Marion Correctional Center and My son who is incarcerated at Halifax Correctional Center. My husband was sentenced to eight years and my son six for drug and gun charges. We have two children at home and a granddaughter which is my Son's daughter. It's almost three years they have been gone and this whole thing has ripped our family apart but through all of this I have seen so much growth in the both of them. This good time bill will give them a chance to come home to a family that loves and care for them very much please consider these bills. Not just for my family but other's as well. I pray everyday since this happened that change will happen and it needs to happen the time is now. My two family members made a mistake and they are changing before my eyes so if I can see I pray that you can to please consider these bills brought before your committee I love my family and will fight and stand by them until they are home.</p>
Tiffany	Mcdowney	King George Virginia	Good Time Credit, Parole Reinstated	<p>Thank you for time Tiffany Mcdowney</p>
				<p>Please vote to pass HB 1532 (the re-enactment of Code 53.1-202.3)</p> <p>Justice should be blind. Guilty or not guilty is fair; however, sentencing of the convicted has been extremely light to severely harsh. There are numerous examples of violent, multi offenders receiving light sentences, and first time non-violent offenders receiving harsh sentences. We do not want to hamstring our Judges when it comes to sentencing guidelines; this amendment will allow the convicted who may (albeit subjective) have received a harsh sentence an opportunity to reduce the amount of time they spend incarcerated. Violent, repeat offenders are less likely to stay within the parameters of VA Code 53.1-202.3.</p> <p>Additionally, there is an inadequate/uneven application of bond. Financially capable people can afford to post a large bail and keep from being detained until trial and sentencing. Less financially capable people who are charged can be behind bars for YEARS prior to trial, conviction and sentencing. This amendment re-enabling VA Code 53.1-202.3 will allow earned credit for time detained prior sentencing as long as inmates participate in their assigned programs and have no substantial security/behavioral infractions.</p> <p>HB 1532 Is not to shave time off for "Good Behavior," it is an opportunity for the convicted to earn their chance to rejoin society through demonstrated merit.</p> <p>Thank you, Todd Coley</p>
Todd	Coley	Alexandria, VA	HB 1532 (amendment)	
Vickie	Fields	Troutville	Good Time Earned Credits	<p>I am in support of Good Time Earned Credits for All Offenders.</p>
Shawnta	Alvarez	Lorton		<p>What plans are in place to tackle police departments that are and have been using excessive force for years. One incident came about in Fairfax County. This has been happening to men and women of color for decades. Will we be holding these departments accountable for their mistreatment of citizens in our community?</p>
milton	lathram	retired	woodbridge	justice reform
				<p>My son Matthew Lathram approx two decades ago took the life of his best friend in a tragic gun accident. The sentencing guidelines for this crime at his time of trial was two and one half years. Matthew during his trial never showed any disrespect towards the victims family or the courts but somehow received additional years for this offense. When the appeal process was granted he faced the same judge with no change in the verdict. I dont feel my son was misrepresented by his lawyer but the atmosphere in the country against gun violence I feel played a major roll. How does two and one half years turn into what seems like infinity become normal. My son thinks about his friend and his family everyday as do I. I am a proud Virginian who looks upon its elected leaders and judges to perform at a quality level. I hope this letter doesn't fall upon deaf ears. I encourage you to pass a law similar to house bill 1532 and expand the earned sentence credit for good behavior. Make it retroactive and go into effect immediatly. Thanks for your time and this opportunity. My son and I are deeply grateful!</p>
Ken	Seroka	Front Royal	Law Enforcement	<p>I support law enforcement---and I ask that you also support---law enforcement, by getting behind law enforcement in schools, full police budgets and mandatory mininum sentences for serious offenses against police officers, teachers and children.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Solomie	Mesghina	Virginia beach		<p>Restore the Justus system in VA and. Review prisoners case again</p>
Solomie	Mesghina	Virginia Beach va	Restore Justice system in Virginia	<p>I am writing to urge you to expand earned sentence credits for all during the upcoming special session. I am scared for my loved one during this pandemic. Which there had several prisons with positive cases. Social distancing is unthinkable behind bars presently and the conditions in our prisons right now are treacherous. Expanding earned sentence credits for all would help relieve some of these problems for our prison systems while allowing my loved one to come home where they can help us during this crazy time. Please consider the well-being of all Virginia's citizens as pass this legislation as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the regular 2020 legislative session. My cousin was accused of a rape crime but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. He is in college in the deans list with a GPS of 3.84/4.0. AtUOpeopke. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.</p>

Justin	Griffith	Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Office	Pulaski	Reduction of assault on police law	<p>It has been reported that in the past five years nearly 1/3 of all felony assault law-enforcement officer charges have been reduced or dismissed.</p> <p>that proves the law is working correctly the prosecutors elected by the public are using sound decisions to vet out the ones worthy of a felony conviction.</p> <p>to base a reduction of possible punishments on the amount of felony charges that are being reduced will create an implicit bias on prosecutors.</p> <p>it will subconsciously become part of their thought process that something like reducing a DUI to reckless driving, when justice demands that, will be used against them down the road as a justification to reduce the law</p> <p>More common example will be a felony larceny because of priors being reduced to misdemeanor because justice demands it, could be used against him later as justification for getting rid of the felony law when there are cases that merit felony convictions</p> <p>I believe the discretion of the prosecutors across the state is working and the statistics show that the law on assault on police officers is being applied correctly and does not need to be changed.</p>
Tinsae	Gebriel	FAMM	Washington D.C.	mandatory minimums	<p>FAMM is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates sentencing and prison policies that are individualized and fair, protect public safety, and preserve families. We are pleased to see the Virginia General Assembly consider reforms that would eliminate mandatory minimum sentencing laws. Repealing mandatory minimum sentences has been a part of FAMM's mission since our creation in 1991.</p> <p>Virginia has an extensive list of crimes that carry mandatory minimum sentences, and with the exception of a few drug offenses, judges do not have discretion to depart from the applicable minimum sentence. As a result, judges are required to impose lengthy prison sentences without considering the circumstances of each case or the needs or role of each person. This one-size-fits-all sentencing scheme is unjust and does not increase public safety. It wastes public safety resources, harms communities, and diminishes respect for the justice system by putting the wrong people in prison and keeping people in prison too long.</p> <p>FAMM supports eliminating mandatory minimums because there is no evidence to support the claim that mandatory minimums reduce crime or drug use. Criminologists have long made it clear that the certainty of being caught and punished quickly, not lengthy sentences, deters crime. The body of evidence weighs even more heavily against lengthy punishment for drug crimes. A 50-state study from the Pew Charitable Trusts found no significant relationship between drug sentencing and three key indicators of drug epidemics: illicit drug use, drug arrests, and overdose rates. There is also no credible evidence that mandatory minimums deter gun violence or gun crimes. Crime rates respond to policies that ensure swift and certain sanctions on those who choose to break the law.</p> <p>Further, repealing mandatory minimums would eliminate unreasonable, unnecessary, and counterproductive prison sentences. Sentences should fit the crime and each person's unique role and needs. One-size-fits-all sentences do not allow courts to consider all of the relevant facts and circumstances about the crime and its impact on the community, or the person's criminal record, role, motive, age, or need for mental health or drug treatment, for example. Too often, the mandatory minimum sentence is unjust, irrational, or even counterproductive.</p> <p>Repealing mandatory sentences does not mean does not mean people go without accountability. It means judges would be able to decide appropriate sentences rather than apply one-size-fits-all punishments. It means the state would focus expensive prison resources wisely to increase public safety. It means families and communities would not be ripped apart for decades by unjust sentences.</p> <p>Reforming mandatory sentencing laws is critical to achieving the legislature's goal of restoring racial equity in the state's criminal justice system. Black people make up 19 percent of the state's population but 58 percent of its prison and jail population, and mandatory sentences have long been shown to contribute to racial disparities in the justice system. A study of federal sentencing patterns show that prosecutors are more likely to charge Black people of offenses that carry mandatory sentences, which ultimately lengthens their sentence and contributes to the racial disparities in sentence length. Eliminating mandatory</p>

				<p>Dear committee members,</p> <p>I am unable to attend your meeting today. If the presentations and speakers are recorded, I will definitely watch - I hope so, it sounds like a wonderful opportunity to hear from many key organizations regarding criminal justice approaches in Virginia.</p> <p>As a resident of Virginia (previously Radford, VA, and now Blacksburg, VA), a parent, a community member, I urge you to take immediate, innovative, community-oriented steps to start a process of shifting funding away from police systems, which are founded on white supremacy and racism (https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/07/28/violence-portland-exposes-real-purpose-embedded-law-enforcement/) to provide more funding for methods, services, and institutions that will better protect and serve our communities and our safety and well-being.</p> <p>The Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Special Session Priorities (https://www.vablackcaucus.com/news/c/0/i/47508787/vlbc-special-session-priorities) are an excellent start!</p> <p>Though not all of these legislative priorities may be in your purview, I fully support them all, and urge you to support all that do fit within your committees' roles.</p> <p>I urge you to develop and/or enthusiastically and quickly support legislation during the August Special Session to accomplish the following across Virginia:</p> <p>Hold Police Accountable, Strengthen Regulation, & Improve Transparency by: Creating a Civilian Review Board with Subpoena Power Ending Qualified Immunity & Making Changes to Sovereign Immunity Establishing a Statewide Officer Database Standardizing and Reforming Police Administration, Training, and Accountability Expanding Police Decertification Criteria Expanding the Use of Body Cams Requiring Independent Investigations for All Police-Involved Shootings/Deaths</p>
Virginia	Pannabecker	Blacksburg	Shift funding for police to other safety and well-being services for the community	<p>Prevent Law Enforcement Excessive Use of Force by: Defining and Restricting Excessive Use of Force</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Could you please request that all members of the Public Safety Committee make sure that their ZOOM settings reveal their full names instead of just initials? Also, I would request that whenever committee members keep their video on so we can see these members AS THOUGH IT WERE AN IN PERSON public meeting?</p> <p>I would like a response from the Chair on this matter.</p>
Leslie	Middleton	Charlottesville	Access during this hearing	<p>Thank you, Leslie Middleton Buddy:</p>
Ned	Massie	Hanover County		<p>In addition to displaying arrogance/bullying, the Speaker's decision is consistent with the Marxist/Communist method of securing power by intimidation. It is discouraging that the RPV is not speaking out about the Democratic Party having become Marxism/Communist - as shown by their embracing (1) M4BL (BLM) - self proclaimed Marxist (2) Democratic Socialist of America - openly communists (is it two or three in the House of Delegates with you?).</p> <p>Speak up for heaven sake! Ned</p>
Tia	Hooven	1974 Galax	support of good time credits	<p>Writing you today in support of the Good Time Credit bill 1532.. so many would benefit from this being passed and would assist so many in returning home to their families, where they are needed.. thank younforbyour attention in this matter. sincerely Tia Hooven</p>
Gordon	Morse	Virginian-Pilot/DP Williamsburg	Wednesday morning testimony	<p>Could you just shoot me a quick reply (gcmorse@icloud.com) on the identity of the person who testified this morning on "mandatory minimums" and her affiliation? The "agenda" bottom was unavailing. Gracias. gcmorse</p>

				<p>Written testimony to Virginia Joint Committee Meeting of Courts of Justice and Public Safety Committees July 29, 2020</p> <p>My name is Kate Fraleigh. I live in Charlottesville Virginia at 1716 Yorktown Drive. I write to you for two reasons. Thank you for soliciting public input. The first reason I write is about mental health and the police department. Before I make my ask, I understand it's good to have some personal story that brings home a point and I do have one. My father, my brother, and my niece have had mental health issues and had occasion at least five times to be physically handled by police. Their illness did not improve with police intervention. People suffering from mental illness shouldn't be arrested. It's not a good idea to have police be first responders during a mental health crisis unless someone's life is in danger. It is not pleasant for anyone, not useful in the criminal system, and especially not helpful to the person with mental illness. Law enforcement officers do not have the training and shouldn't have it as they shouldn't be there. Luckily none of my family members became resistant as a result of police presence which I understand happens not rarely. I ask you to get the police and thus the criminal legal system out of the mental health business. I'm asking you to make it possible for other well prepared people and people especially suited to intervene in mental health crises to be first responders. Please allow localities to determine who those people should be. The second thing I'm writing to you about is also about public safety and that has to do with the Farmville ICE detention center. The people in detention are in a very dangerous situation with the high incidence of COVID-19 at that facility. They are living on Virginia land. Maybe the federal government leases the land. I don't know. But they are here. We have a responsibility to them even if the Federal Government doesn't seem to care if they die. I have been listening to the Committee's hearing and Secretary Moran did not say anything about this although his title has something to do with homeland security. I'm asking you to send inspectors into the Farmville Detention Center to assess the safety, health care, and releasing situation there. Thank you for making an effort to hear from the public.</p> <p>Kate Fraleigh</p>
Kate	Fraleigh	Charlottesville	First responders in mental health crises. Covid Safety	
Vickie	Estep	Fauquier	Earned Good Time Credits Bill	I support passage of The Earned Good Time Credits Bill for ALL! Thank you!
				<p>we have a grave concern for inmates being released how they will survive now that the unemployment rate is at an all time high. we propose a plan for at least 90 days some type of financial relief for them.</p> <p>mr. charles artis at deerfield correctional is 51 years of age who is dealing with hpiliara and found out that the mesh he had done in 2017 has been recalled. he still has abdominal pain for 2 years and is medically noted. the doc will not do the revision surgery he needs told to him by medical personell. he meets all the requirements to be released under the covid 19 regulations he has 4 months left to serve. has been in jail for 19 years on a 22 sentence. why wont they release him so that he can get the surgery done. please help. thankyou for hearing our requests. and god bless.</p>
angela	williams	inmates in prison virginia	inmates being released from prison and their financial health and covid 19 rules for inmates	
Lauren	Cummings	Luray	harsh sentences	<p>we need to reform our judicial system</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session.</p> <p>Lengthy and unjust prison sentences, especially mandatory minimums, affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family and community has been adversely affected by mass incarceration and I am good person and deserved an opportunity to prove that and come home with my children earlier.</p> <p>Had there been opportunities to earn more credit to come home early, I would have done everything I could. I already did everything I could being a Trustee in the jail for 15 months (2 day short of the record length of being a Trustee and not being fired) worked hard every shift and went above and beyond all the time.</p> <p>I did the same while I was in Prison. I got a job and worked it for 6 months even though the hiring manager never bothered to make sure I was paid. I volunteered with the church and was an active and productive member of the congregation as an Elder and leading Bible Studies and Worship Services and never missed a service. I was employed as a Tutor in the Welding shop for over 2 years going above and beyond and creating study guides and materials that made the class function and enabled the students to learn and pass the class with better grades preparing them for a positive re-entry with job opportunities. When my teacher was out for surgery, I volunteered, unpaid, to work in the Small Engine Classroom as an Aide and repaired their broken systems that were preventing them from being able to teach the class.</p> <p>These are just small examples of how I not only remained infraction free, but went above and beyond the vast majority of inmates and this was recognized by staff and inmates everywhere I went, yet, other than doing the best for myself and my fellow inmates, regardless of my circumstances, there were no additional incentives of any kind, much less the possibility of earning extra time off to be home with my family sooner.</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits and incentives for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session.</p>
Joel	Watkinson	SOUTH RIDING	Earned Sentence Credits, Mandatory Minimums, Incentives	<p>Thank you, Joel</p>
Virginia	McDowney	Colonial Beach	Good time bill	considering passing good time bill for inmates that shows good conduct over a period of there sentence. Prisons are over crowded and living conditions are terrible. Cells being 98 degrees min supply of ice and fans just a few things not being addressed.

byrd	macgowan	Fairfax	<p>Police brutality and accountability</p> <p>I am writing from the perspective of someone who had a conflict with the police that was unnecessarily escalated. Since this happened to me, I have observed many instances of police escalating rather than de-escalating a situation. In my case, I had few resources and had to use a public defender. I felt that this man, though African American, did very little to defend me since Fairfax County police were involved. I wonder how often this happens to others who have observed years of state prosecutors working in tandem with local police. The relationship between these two parties needs to be scrutinized and evaluated.</p> <p>Secondly, as a public school teacher, I have had to undergo hours of additional communication training to be able to respond to our changing culture. The renewal of my license depends on completing this training and not having any inappropriate responses to students in the classroom no matter how challenging that may be. Teachers are also subject to a 3 three year probation period upon being hired. It seems that there are many safe guards in place for evaluating teachers and very few for police. Yes, they are required to fill many roles - counselor, probation officer, clergy, psychologist - beyond guardians of the law and I do not think they have been properly trained nor do they have the oversight and scrutiny they should have when they have exhibited a pattern of excess force and escalation. For example, police have been instructed not to engage in high speed chases to apprehend someone yet this continues to happen often ending in injury.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to say that since the Ferguson case in Missouri there has been little change in responses toward African Americans. In fact, then the response was let's form a commission and study the problem. Now the response should be let's solve the problem while also maintaining safe communities and keeping officers safe while disciplining those with unnecessarily aggressive and violent behaviors. We also need to bring back the reading of the Miranda rights for every citizen that is arrested. This should never have been changed.</p>
DEWANNA	THOMPSON	FREDERICKSBURG	<p>'Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within the legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counterproductive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the wrongest who we should most give them an incentive to be better people. My son was accused of a violent crime but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you.'</p> <p>Leader Herring, Chairman Hope & Members of the Committee:</p>
Tracey	Hopper	City of Charlottesville	<p>Enabling legislation re: civilian oversight bodies of the police</p> <p>My name is Tracey Hopper. I am an attorney who practices and lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.</p> <p>I have been an attorney for 23 years and have lived in Charlottesville for over 35 years. I was a church volunteer on the frontlines during the events of the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville (August 11-12, 2017) when the White Supremacists and Nazis ravaged our community and specifically targeted and terrorized predominantly African-American and Latinx communities, as well as the local synagogue. During these assaults on Charlottesville/Albemarle citizenry THE POLICE STOOD BY AND DID NEAR NOTHING TO PROTECT US.</p> <p>The creation of a Civilian Review Board (CRB) in our community has helped to begin to heal this breach of trust between the police and its citizens. However, this healing in Charlottesville and statewide is hindered by the fact that governing bodies and citizens of localities do not have the necessary tools to facilitate effective police oversight and accountability.</p> <p>Police need to be accountable to the citizens they are sworn to protect.</p> <p>The Problem: Localities are not explicitly authorized by statute to form civilian oversight bodies of the police. They are advisory-only and are currently limited in their ability to access policing information and to investigate. They have no clear mechanism to compel witnesses or the production of documents. They are also limited in their ability to make binding determinations beyond unenforceable "recommendations."</p> <p>The Proposed Solution: The General Assembly shall pass enabling legislation giving localities three explicit powers to create meaningful police oversight:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Localities may establish civilian oversight bodies for the purpose of overseeing a law enforcement agency or agencies within its jurisdiction. 2) Localities may vest civilian oversight bodies with subpoena and subpoena duces tecum power permitting them to directly request the Circuit Court in their jurisdiction to compel the appearance of a witness or production of documents related to its oversight of a law enforcement agency. 3) Localities may give to the oversight body the power of final disciplinary and/or decision-making authority. To meet this objective, the General Assembly

I am a Victim Advocate in the Williamsburg/James City County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office. I am writing as a private citizen as well as a victim advocate. I believe that bringing back parole skews the sentence given to an individual. I believe to be transparent with truth in sentencing, you cannot have parole. When a defendant receives a sentence of 30 years. They should serve 30 years. Not 1/2 that time or 2/3 of that time, or early release on parole. If you want a defendant to have 15 years, the sentence should be 15 years. Don't give them 30 and then cut the sentence to 20.

Parole and good time credit should have no place in violent crimes. Try telling a mother whose daughter was murdered that the killers could be released early. It's devastating to them. Tell a mother of a child who was sexually abused that the abuser will get out of prison 10 years early.

Some of the people that spoke about parole and no mandatory minimums, obviously haven't had a family member or close friend that have been the victim of a violent crime.

Please consider this when determining whether to re-implement parole.

Sincerely,

Tammy Morman Victims Williamsburg Parole

Tammy Morman

Good afternoon Lady Chairman and members of the Courts of Justice and Public Safeties Committees. Today, I would like to address the issue of abolishing mandatory minimums and that of law-enforcement bias in our communities.

After hearing the terms "white privilege," and "disproportionate among people of color," I decided to take a look for myself. What I found at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, specifically, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was eye-opening, to say the least.

In a 2018 report (their most current) on estimated juvenile arrests made by offense, and race, a sample of their findings are as follows:

* Larceny/Theft: 52,180 white vs. 37,320 black

* Simple Assault: 73,520 white vs. 47,960 black

* Drug Abuse Violations: 66,640 white vs. 20,680 black

And the list goes on. The report shows that out of the 30 categories of both lower and more serious crimes, whites were arrested more than blacks, in 20 of those.

When we look at the same data, from the same source for adults, we notice a similar trend:

* Larceny/Theft: 541,550 white vs. 229,140 black

* Simple Assault: 611,600 white vs. 292,450 black

* Drug Abuse Violations: 1,101,260 white vs. 425,790 black

Again, when taking all 30 categories into account, whites lead in 23.

My question is this? If our criminal system is so rife with bias, why do these numbers seem to indicate otherwise?

I have also listened to speakers talk about how mandatory minimums, instead of diverting the desire to impose what they feel are "unreasonable sentences." Let me be clear here: "unreasonable sentences" on convicted criminals. My response to that, would be to ask: Is it too "unreasonable" for criminals not to commit the crime in the first place. In my opinion, we live in a society that accepts zero accountability, yet expects 100% entitlement. You simply can't have both.

Finally, on the issue of bias, we are all guilty to some degree. Today I told my daughter she was the "most beautiful daughter in the world." I was being biased. You might have a favorite college team. Perhaps it's U of R, VT, or UVA. If so, your being biased. Do you enjoy one particular food over another? Again, that's being biased. I'm being a bit sarcastic, but hopefully you get the picture. That is why I feel it so easy to throw this issue out there and then subvert it ones own political ends. Not only this, but in all the discussion to abolish mandatory sentences, I did not recall hearing any suggestions as to what would take its place.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles Hoffman

Fluvanna

Abolishing Mandatory Minimums and Law Enforcement Bias

Charles D. Hoffman Jr.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some ideas. Of the few times I have had interactions with police, they have been professional and knowledgeable. I could tell by their demeanor that they had experience dealing with many stressful situations. Is there a way to identify, encourage, teach and learn from those officers with the best human interaction skills? There are websites, ratemycop, fiveo.us, <https://www.excusemeofficer.com/>, and ... which may be of assistance in helping collect data, share best practices, and monitor events that should never have happened. There are many good ideas on ways to improve the police force, which needs it. But don't throw out the good with the bad.

Changing the law of assaulting a police officer from a felony to a misdemeanor assumes that there will be no progress in police training, behavior and removal of abusive police. Perhaps the law could flex when charges are pressed that take into account the mental abilities of the suspect.

Not all police are the same, nor are all suspects. You could not pay me enough money to pull over a car where I have to assume the driver has a gun that could be used to shoot me. Could the proliferation of guns be contributing to the heightened responses by police? Would police like to see gun availability reduced, monitored, required to have safety training?

I hope together we can come up with ideas to start changing the way police and people interact. May we all respect and learn from each other to make Virginia a better place to live.

Thank you for time,

Dianne Hansen

Fairfax

Police reform

Dianne

				<p>It would appear from the context of this meeting that the subject of discussion at least in part is a possible reduction of the relevant penalties under § 18.2-57. Assault and battery; penalty. As it would appear that the current focus on the topic surrounds public interaction with the police, I do not believe it would be wise to adjust these penalties downward at this time. Hardened and career criminals are often well-versed in the prospective penalties that their crimes would garner and adjust their actions accordingly. Further, this would seem to provide nothing positive toward the character of improved policing or respect for the authority of Virginia officers which has suffered lately especially in Richmond. I am concerned for the safety of Virginia citizens now more than ever. There does not appear to be moral resolve on behalf of the Governor nor the mayor of Richmond especially to ensure public safety. So as the legislature indulges these discussions while criminals are being emboldened and property damage is occurring daily. When will it end? I am confident that under any prior administration either Democrat or Republican, it would have ended peacefully within 48 hours of starting.</p>
Colin	Smith	Manassas	Reducing mandatory minimum sentencing	<p>Would like to discuss good time bill for everyone Virginia prisons are ovet crowded and verging on cruel and unusual punishment. Prisons are not disclosing the conditions inmates are living it. Richmond News tried several times last year to get comments from Buckingham and other VA prisons ref to facilities with no air having few fans limited ice and temperature over 95 degrees inside the living and sleeping areas. Good time gives inmates the opportunity to rehabilitate and learn to live in society by being a functional person rather then dysfunctional. Striving to do better to earn their release</p>
Virginia	McDowney	Colonial Beach	Good time bill	<p>I have seen Richmond go from Murder Capital to College Town. I have had these officers (working private duty) protect restaurants and events, I worked and attended; even walking me safely to my car, at the end of a work shift. This level of protection, on the streets and schools, has overall helped the city. I was born and raised in the area. Before 2000, I had never been to the city because it was awful. People will not send their kids to school in the city, rent, renovate, open businesses, visit for games, shows or dining, if there is little police presence. I withdrew my application to work as a nurse in the city because of all the unrest, tension and teetering police presence.</p> <p>Schools are dangerous these days, and inner city schools need good teachers. I applied to teach High School Biology at a school, across the street from Gilpen Court. I would not have driven there for the interview, if police weren't present. Parents are pulling their children out of public schools because of safety concerns. Parents are paying for good teachers to educate their children at home. What's going to happen to the terribly performing Richmond Public Schools if police are withdrawn? Talk about disparity.</p> <p>Also, Highland Springs Elementary school is trying a pilot program. The program worked well in failing D.C. schools and is underway to improve this local school. A pivotal part of this program is social and moral education, including being greeted daily by POLICE OFFICERS, teachers, principals, etc. If this is working, shouldn't we expand this program, not take officers out.</p> <p>There are community engagement options in the area now. Boys and Girls club and the YMCA, are two. I rarely see them buzzing with active young teens. I actually hear the Boys Club has very little membership so what would putting more money into failing community programs serve. Taking officers off the street, officers who helped make the area vibrant day and night- unlike the time from 1980-2000 would be counterproductive. Teachers and schools have a higher budget and received another raise last year contrary to some officers and fire staff...even though I've been told some 4th graders in the city can't read.</p> <p>Finally, the mandatory sentence is an absolute necessity. A State Trooper was shot in the head, by a 28 African American male, in Mosby Court. The male told a girlfriend, he was "not going back to jail." He shot the officer in the head. The officer was the father of three young children and wrestling coach. We loved in the area and by his family. The person who shot him was "troubled" and nearly received a 24 year sentence, with the option of parole. He had been on parole before and "will end up back in jail, if he is let out and violates probation," said the judge Snukals. Wow. The second cop killer, to have a second chance at life, in the news lately. I grew up without a father; certainly those hardships can be taking there toll on Officer Walters family at this time. These criminals need mandatory minimums. In fact, increase them and see which way crime delineates. Living in Chesterfield, with my son, I'm so happy this area is known for being tough on crime. Hopefully, Richmond will follow suit so we don't have run off and more sad stories on the news.</p>
Latane	Flanagan	Chesterfield	Police	

Senator Dick Black's address to:
 Courts of Justice and Public Safety, Re: Police Issues
 July 29, 2020

Mister Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,
 I am Senator Dick Black, recently retired after service in the House and Senate that spanned 20 years. I represented Loudoun County and Prince William Counties.
 During the latter half of my military career, I was in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Eventually, I was the Chief of the Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon, supervising military justice worldwide.
 I have ridden on patrols with police, and I know the tension and danger they encounter daily. You should be glad that it is they--and not you--who must face the daily threat of death from violent elements.
 I am addressing this committee this morning to express my deep concern about the direction the General Assembly has taken on law & order under Democrat leadership.
 Specifically, I am deeply concerned that legislation under consideration is designed to weaken law enforcement, leaving the public defenseless at a time of a spreading arson, looting, assaults, and murder.
 •ENCOURAGING ATTACKS ON POLICE: A bill was introduced to reduce the crime of assaulting a law enforcement officer from a felony to a misdemeanor. The only purpose for such legislation is to increase the vulnerability of police officers and to encouraged rioters to assault and perhaps kill them.
 •DEFUNDING POLICE: Also, cutting funds for our police, sheriff's, and state troopers sends a clear message that, under Democrat leadership, the Virginia General Assembly hates cops.
 •ENDING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SCHOOLS: Parents were shocked that Democrats intend to remove School Resource Officers from public schools. Those officers protect students from violent bullies and from armed intruders. Removing them will make students vulnerable to shooters, expose them to sexual assaults, and promote attacks on teachers in inner city schools. This move is abhorrent. What vile motives inspire such reasoning?
 •PERMITTING INTOXICATED DRIVERS TO DRIVE: If a bill to prohibit vehicle searches based on probable cause from drug-sniffing dogs passes, it will guarantee that drug-intoxicated drivers will cause fatalities on our highways. Drug dogs have been proven reliable and effective over decades of use. Unfortunately, as marijuana use becomes widespread, dogs are the only realistic tool for removing drug-intoxicated drivers from the road.
 •RELEASING HARDENED CRIMINALS: Democrats want to reinstitute parole for career criminals. This will unquestionably return violent criminals to the streets. The abolition of parole was, perhaps, the greatest single public safety reform ever enacted in Virginia. It has cut crime and made our streets safe. Reversing that reform is guaranteed to promote violent crime.

Richard	Black		Ashburn	Revolutionary police proposals	The thrust of legislation being considered is to deliberately weaken law enforcement, leaving the public defenseless against violent rioters, Marxists and
Don	Gathers	Charlottesville Initial Civilian Review Board	Charlottesville	Policing and Police Reform	It has truly been both enlightening and informative to watch the last two weeks of meetings of the Joint committees. My thanks to the participants and to the organizers. Looking forward to next weeks session and hoping to be called to participate.
Don	Gathers	Charlottesville Initial Civilian Review Board	Charlottesville	Policing and Police Reform	Hoping to be called to speak.
Cristeena	Naser	SALT, VICPP	Alexandria	Criminal Justice Reform	<p>I write to urge Virginia legislators to act on the following criminal justice issues during the upcoming session. In general,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address and combat racism, including eliminating private prisons. 2. Hold police accountable for their actions, strengthen regulations and improve transparency. 3. Prohibit the use of excessive force by law enforcement, including a prohibition on choke holds. How many more black men have to say "I can't breath." 4. Replace law enforcement's role in certain areas with trained specialists, <p>More specifically,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pay inmates a reasonable wage. Virginia prisons pay inmates rates from \$0.27 per hour to \$0.80 per hour. Pay rates have not increased in more than 30 years. Pay rates are so low that they punish prisoners and devalue their contributions to society. Paying prisoners a real wage would give them more incentive to pay their court imposed fines, restitution orders and child support. It would permit savings for the inmates' eventual release and re-entry to society. The benefits in successful re-entry, lower recidivism and reduced human suffering would be palpable. The lower future costs for warehousing inmates would offset the higher budgetary requirement to increase prison pay. b. Eliminate inmate medical co-pays. In Virginia, the incarcerated who seek medical care must pay a \$5.00 co-pay. Five dollars may not seem burdensome for someone being paid a living wage. However, an inmate working in Virginia only receives from \$0.27 to \$0.80 per hour. That's 6.5 up to 18.5 hours of work to cover a medical co-pay. No other group of workers in America must work 18.5 hours to make a \$5.00 co-payment. Lack of a co-pay leads to more severe illnesses and in this era of pandemic, infecting other inmates. Eliminating co-pays for inmates in Virginia is a moral imperative. <p>I look forward to your deliberations. Sincerely, Cristeena Naser</p>

Rosia	Parker	People Coalition	Charlottesville	PCRB	We really need for a PCRB IS IN PLACE ,for every county.this holds the local government Accountability. Some locations need more than others,where there have been so much corruption in the police department,as well as the racial disparity,and racial profiling. Also I was a victim In the Unite the Right Rally and tht whole summer of Hate,in Charlottesville VA 2017,still being followed now at times. But I stand up willing to die at any cost to make sure that my people are taking care, justice served,by any means. I notice in each locality,there are allowed to set up the way the practice law,as well a Dillon Rule,inwhich the law is not fair and just to us all.when I was young,I watched racism in the rarest form,of someone being set on fire in front of me,so this makes the fight for Justice for me all different. The police brutality over time have just been placed on a back burner ND forgot bout. A lot of times there is no transparency or Responsibility taking for their actions,it becomes very defensive when you are fighting against your mayor and police chief and city manager whom really don't want to see the greater good for the community. So a PCRB was created,to make the police dept and local government held liable for their actions,it's a joke to them,business as usual. We need more power in certain areas when it comes to make sure there is proper investigation.
Deborah	Jefferson		Colonial Heights	Earned Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits to ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session in August. Differentiating between various classes of crime within an environment that is designed to rehabilitate is unfair and counter productive. Doing time not only affects the incarcerated, but their families as well. We do the time with them. My fiancé and brother have worked hard to show they are worthy of another chance , so please take my plea into consideration. Thank you.
Lia	Coram		Fredericksburg	Earn good time Credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my loved is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. We all make mistakes and deserve a second chance my loved one has been away from his family for 15 years, my son is 15 years old and has been without his father for 15 years make a change so that my son can have his father back. Let's make a change. Thank you.
Deja	Pettis	thehumanization project	Front Royal	More good time	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My fiancé was accused of a violent crime, but has worked hard to be a good person during their time behind bars. They deserve a second chance, as do all. Thank you
Dawn	williams		Lynchburg	William Alex Smith Sr	William Alex Smith Sr a father of two now adult children has been incarcerated for more then 20 years for a non violent crime. Currently William Alex Smith Sr hasn't even serviced a quarter of his sentence for his mom violent crime, no live were taken, no injuries were received. Has justice not been serviced ? Does he not deserve a chance to even know his children ?
Sally	Whittaker	None	Clay	Amend Va. Code § 53.1-202.3	<p>I am writing to encourage your support for legislation that would reinstate parole or amend Va. Code § 53.1-202.3 to increase the rate at which sentence credits may be earned by inmates in Virginia prisons. In 1995 the rate at which sentence credits could be earned was reduced to the current maximum of 4.5 days for every 30 days served. Prior law (Va. Code § 53.1-201) had allowed credit of up to 30 days for every 30 days served.</p> <p>Similar legislation was tabled during the 2013 General Assembly session. That bill (HB 1989) proposed to increase the maximum credit from 4.5 to 15 days per 30 days served. The Department of Planning and Budget's fiscal impact statement for similar legislation (SB 1496) presented during the 2009 General Assembly session stated that "for the longer term, there would be significant savings in future projected costs."</p> <p>As a result of federal grant funds made available to the states under 42 U.S.C. §§ 13701 et seq., in the past there was a financial incentive for states to abolish parole and reduce sentence credits. However, Congress discontinued funding under this legislation in 2002, placing a substantial fiscal burden on Virginia and other states that continue to adhere to strict limits on sentence credits. Marc L. Miller, A Map of Sentencing and a Compass for Judges: Sentencing Information Systems, Transparency, and the Next Generation of Reform, 105 Columbia L. Rev. 1351, 1393n.134 (2005).</p> <p>As of 2019, the ever increasing average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in Virginia was \$32,146. Given our current budget constraints, I urge you to support cost-saving legislation to reinstate parole and/or increase earned sentence credits. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.</p> <p>http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?091+oth+SB1496F122+PDF</p> <p>DOC Management Information Summary Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; Report p. 10 of 33; PDF p. 18 of 41. https://vadoc.virginia.gov/media/1466/vadoc-financial-annual-mis-report-2019.pdf</p>
Meagan	Flander	VADOC	Lynchburg	People trying to better themselves	I was incarcerated bc I was a few mins late for weekend sentence. I had just given birth to my third child and I was breastfeeding I was originally allowed to pump and my husband could come get them milk for the baby. They then changed their mind but put me in my own cell alone bc of my breast pump, where I also would be forgotten. During that two month sentence I would be in my cell for 3 days straight before I was let out for only am hr. I got engorging on many occasions and it hurt bad and there was nothing I could do to relieve the pain and no one really cared. 2 months is better than what could've been, but still I didn't mean to sleep in after getting kids to school, being up all night breastfeeding and taking care of sick kids. It was definitely a heart breaking situation not only for my kids, but took a mental toll on me knowing my new born was fighting formula and spitting it out. She also had health issues so doing that to her was not wise and we tried to get me out but wouldn't do it. Not only this but before they told me to come down just to do some paper work in the jail before my court date and do my first weekend was messed up and I stayed in jail for a week pregnant and went into preterm labor

Lisa	Bishop	Williamsburg	Mandatory Minimums	<p>My daughter was the victim of sexual abuse where her abuser was sentenced to 20 years, 6 suspended. He has 6 years left. I understand that this Special Session is going to be concerning reinstating parole and making it retroactive. If that comes in to effect, my daughter's abuser would qualify to be considered to get out of prison early. The greatest source of peace that we have had over the last 8 years is that he is locked away and can't get to her - and now I find out that there are advocated fighting to take that peace away from us? I struggle to find the words to adequately express my disgust.</p> <p>Have any of you been the victim of a crime? Have any of you depended on the police to help you out of a situation you never thought you'd be in. If you haven't, then you have no business voting on this notion in any way other than to squash it.</p> <p>You work for ME, you work for MY DAUGHTER. Unfortunately, you are the only voice we have and I implore you to let us keep the peace that we deserve by rejecting the notion of retroactive parole. A vote for retroactive parole is a vote to let a dangerous pedophile out on the streets who has been abusing girls for 43 years. The only time he doesn't abuse girls is when he's locked away.</p>
Susan	Allen	Montgomery county	Prison reform	<p>There are too many people sitting with long sentences for drugs. They are people that need help m, not to be thrown away and disregard. the fact that we have 25% of Americans incarcerated should open our eyes. They say one and seven will be incarcerated that is horrible odds for our children. I feel like it's modern day slavery while people are being forced with these long sentences who have drug problems while somebody else is turning a profit that is not OK. Where are the programs and rehabilitation? And what are the ramifications that it's going to have on our youth for these children that are grown up without their mamas and their daddies because of these ridiculous drug sentences. Non-violent drug offender sentences should be re-looked at. I'd like prison reform to start on these people to be released to be able to go back out into the world and live their lives they pay their dues some of these people with drug sentences are doing more time than pedophiles, rapist ,murderers it is absolutely sickening. I personally hurt by the court system.my sons father was given 17 years for drugs. Hes never seen his son outside of prison walls. my sister has had all possession charges and has done four years. Change is now! Prison reform!</p>
michelle	hensley	henry	good time credits for	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session as it was originally submitted by Delegate Scott during the 2020 legislative session. Distinguishing between different classes of crime within legislation that is set to encourage rehabilitation and incentivize better behavior is unjust, unnecessary, and counter productive. Sentence length already reflects initial crime so POTENTIAL time earned off of sentences will reflect that as well. In addition, it is those who have done the most wrong who we should most give incentive to be better people. My husband James Hensly 1087766 was accused of a a robbery crime, but has worked hard in reentry as a inmate counselor or Elder at the greenrock correction center to those getting ready to go home and was then transfered to a low level road crew where he has become the lowest level inmate possible for Virginia, he has truly proven his rehabilitation but has no one to show it too. He has spent this time behind bars wisley. I think you would agree he should be given a opportunity at another chance, as do all. Thank you.</p> <p>Michelle Hensley</p>
Brittany	Comer	Raleigh, NC		<p>Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration my boyfriend is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.</p>
Kathi	Wyett	Toccoa, GA		<p>I am writing to encourage support for legislation related to the rate of E.S.C. (Earned Sentence Credits) during the upcoming special session. With the current social crisis and fiscal problems as a result of COVID-19 now is the time to act on this very important and needed change as it relates to very much overdue prison reform.</p> <p>I urge you to support legislation that would reinstate parole or amend Va. Code § 53.1-202.3 to increase the rate at which sentence credits may be earned by inmates in Virginia prisons. In 1995 the rate at which sentence credits could be earned was reduced to the current maximum of 4.5 days for every 30 days served. Prior law (Va. Code § 53.1-201) had allowed credit of up to 30 days for every 30 days served.</p> <p>Similar legislation was tabled during the 2013 General Assembly session. That bill (HB 1989) proposed to increase the maximum credit from 4.5 to 15 days per 30 days served. The Department of Planning and Budget's fiscal impact statement for similar legislation (SB 1496) presented during the 2009 General Assembly session stated that "for the longer term, there would be significant savings in future projected costs."</p> <p>As a result of federal grant funds made available to the states under 42 U.S.C. §§ 13701 et seq., in the past there was a financial incentive for states to abolish parole and reduce sentence credits. However, Congress discontinued funding under this legislation in 2002, placing a substantial fiscal burden on Virginia and other states that continue to adhere to strict limits on sentence credits. Marc L. Miller, A Map of Sentencing and a Compass for Judges: Sentencing Information Systems, Transparency, and the Next Generation of Reform, 105 Columbia L. Rev. 1351, 1393n.134 (2005).</p> <p>In light of the recent social upheaval as well as the cost of COVID-19 on our Commonwealth, the time is right for prison reform. The funds spent on incarceration need to be diverted to more positive and helpful uses.</p> <p>As of 2019, the ever increasing average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in Virginia was \$32,146. Given our current budget constraints, I urge you to support cost-saving legislation to reinstate parole and/or increase earned sentence credits. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.</p>

John	Pulliam		Palmyra	Law and Order	Police are our civilian protectors and laws are how we as a society keep it all in order. This lunacy need to STOP. Bring back our state to normalcy. Keep the State Great!
Pam	Atkins	Personal	Botetourt	Good Time Earned Credit for ALL Offenders	We have a friend that was forced into taking a plea agreement otherwise his sentence would have been longer. He is well respected by staff and inmates and he is furthering his education while incarcerated.
Jerry	Hale		Augusta	Earned good time credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for all behind bars during The upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities to. My family has been affected by mass incarceration in my nephew is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you
Lorie	Hale		Augusta	Expand Earned Good time credit	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Nephew is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Ashley	Hale		Augusta	Expand earned income credit for all	Example 1: Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my Cousin is a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Thank you.
Quintessence	Johnson		Arlington	Sentence Credits	Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My life has been affected by mass incarceration and the absence of my dear childhood friend. He is a good person who has learned from his mistakes. Thank you.
Jasmine	Seward		Colonial Heights		Please pass legislation to expand earned sentence credits for ALL behind bars during the upcoming special session. Lengthy and unjust prison sentences affect more than just the person behind bars. They affect their families and communities too. My family has been affected by mass incarceration and my loving caring boyfriend is truly a good person and needs to be home with us during this time. Please take into consideration the seriousness of this pandemic only expected to get worse. Thank you.
Malik	Amara		Fairfax	Earned sentencing credit	I support hb1532 give them a chance to earn good time to co.e home
deron	Goodman	everybody	lorton	earned sentencing credit	I support
					My husband is known as 1396273 incarcerated on larceny and just being 20 years old. After serving his long maximum 3 year sentence on a crime that he and his friends committed. We got married 04/01/2010 and upon his release he was sent over to Woodstock Jail in Shenandoah County. He was charged with rape, assault, and kidnapping. In 2006 my husband went to a party to celebrate another gang members birthday; the leader. That resulted in something that should have not happened. There was alot of alcohol and drugs available. Everyone decided to make poor decisions in that state of mind, he committed the crime. He was sentenced to 18 years. My husbands release date is 03/2026. After that he may or may not be deported. I have been living like this since i was 18. I didn't understand a lot of what was going on during that time but as i have developed into a young lady and now at 30 years old. I have endured this pain enough to get through it sticking by his side. You may not care about what i deal with being away from my man. H went into the prison system in 2007 with no highschool degree/drop out and as a labeled gang member. Today he has his GED and enrolled in Stratford Vocational School Online taking 4 courses through the mail. He has informed his counselor as well as other officials to get him out of gang label file. He also does not socialize with any of these people as well as others because in his mind he knows that is not his permanent home. My husband stays away from everything that could possibly get him more time or anything that could sabotage him from his freedom. Today we have our own home and we have businesses. H is able to come home and have a job as well as a place to call home. He would like to enroll in school and further his education. He would like to start a family and become the man he should of became instead of getting in trouble on the streets. now h being in his mid 30's we would like the delegates to consider the good behavior credits because he knows and understands he committed the crime but hes not a rapist. He made a mistake; he acknowledges he made a mistake and doesn't want to die in the last few years he has remaining. Please consider
Nahida	Sultani	Sultani Serenity Home Health Care Agency	Springfeild	Please consider the good credit law for violent and non violent inmates.	
Symone	Berry		Camden	Earned Sentence Credit	I support HB1532
Brandon	Fitzgerald		Laweranceville	Earned sentencing credit	I support this bill HB1532
Shellia	Davis		Capitol Heights		I believe that everyone deserves a second chance
Jennay	Shanklin		Colonial beach	Earned Good Time for All	My family and community support Earned Good Time for All so that people can return to their respective communities and help out and reunite their loved ones.
					I strongly urge the committee to consider and incorporate the following criteria in the development of Civilian Review Boards: 1. Every board should have diverse and representative representation. This should include women, people of color and religious minorities or non-religious individuals. 2. Members should not be elected, but should be appointed. Elections will restrict low-income community participation, excluding the very perspective most needed. Elections cost money that can be better spent elsewhere. 3. Boards should be completely autonomous from the jurisdiction's attorney and should have independent legal counsel. 4. Boards should be completely independent and autonomous from the jurisdiction's police department or sheriff's office. 5. Boards should be housed separately from the police department, unless otherwise prohibitive. 6. The public should be made aware that they have the right to make complaints to the Civilian Review Board without fear of retribution. 7. Every board should have the capability to suggest corrective measures and use subpoena power as needed. 8. Every board should have access to the record of officers when investigating complaints. 9. Every board should have tracking methods to maintain historic records of complaints and resolutions against officers.
Joseph	Grieshaber		RESTON	Civilian Review Boards	

Joshua	Coleman	Incarcerated Lives Matter VA	Danville	HB1532	<p>MY TESTIMONY: My name is Joshua Coleman. I am currently incarcerated at State Farm Enterprise Unit. I have been sentenced to serve 13 yrs. I was currently in the military before I was arrested for robberies committed on 1/17/2017. The commonwealth attorney Michael Newman prosecuted these cases here in Danville. Search warrants were issued for my arrest, home, phone and my car. Search warrant #5332 search states and describes my car used in one of the robberies committed on 1/17/2017. The commonwealth(Danville Police Department and Commonwealth attorney Michael Newman) refused to allow me or my counsel Jason Eisner to inspect this video that was used to obtain access to my home and my cell phone. My mom Carla Stevens has sent many FOIA request with my consent on my behalf to view/ copy these two pieces of evidence. I have already served 3yrs. Detective Samuel Bray used my cell phone with my knowledge or permission To take screenshots of location pictures that were used against me in court instead of the stated extraction report that he swore under oath he had. My counsel Jason Eisner states he never got either or got a chance to inspect them and doubts if they even exist. These two important pieces of evidence were used to convict me. The Danville Police Department is using a loop hole in the law stating that if a piece of evidence is part of an investigative file they do not have to give access to it when requested on FOIA. Please consider passing this HB1532 Bill. We really need this good time bill passed to get out and restart our interrupted lives. Meanwhile I fight my case from here.</p> <p>Thanks in advance</p> <p>Joshua Coleman State Farm Enterprise Farm Unit 3500 Woods Way State Farm, Virginia 23160</p>
Stacy	Grimes		Suffolk	allowing people to reduce their sentence	I am the step-mother of a convicted felon. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has helped thousands of people with their problems and addictions. I am here to support prisoners who have not had a violent crime to be released early from prison. Being in prison keeps prisoners in a controlled environment and is not helping to teach them a skill or better themselves. They need to contribute back to society and with support. More funding and support needs to be for advocating for prisoners to be released early, especially when the COVID pandemic has decreased.
Crystal	Stewart		Springfield	Earned sentencing credit	I am in support of this bill
Tameka	Gregory		Danville	Expansion of earned sentence credits	I greatly support the expansion of earned sentence credits for all inmates. I'm very concerned for my fiancé whom is incarcerated during this covid where cases is regularly rising
Frances	Ross				<p>Good afternoon</p> <p>I was so excited to get the invite to speak, I understand that time went over however I waited 3 hours along with our 10 Year old daughter , I've explained to her that you have to stand up and speak about things you believe in, so was additionally so excited when I received the email ti have my voice be the voice for so many Virginia citizens and they were watching and listening to have there voices heard only once again to be unearnd! Is there any way that I will be able to have my voice heard!</p> <p>Again I want to thank you and each and every member of the whole General Assembly for all the hard work!!</p> <p>I want to additionally add that we support increasing the Good Time Earning Credits, it's a chance for residents of the VADOC to EARN the ability to come home to family members sooner rather than later, these are people that are coming home this for my family we mean our daughter could possibly have her Dad at her Graduation next year!</p>

I thank you- for the opportunity to represent the Virginia Autism Project-

1. Families with a loved one in a mental health crisis or who has a disability that presents with complex behaviors such as fight or flight/ OCD/ anxiety/ or tics, are terrified of calling the police because of the charges against their loved one that could result. They are terrified of speaking out and calling attention to their situation.
2. In the best of situations they are just trying to survive and in today's world, that is even harder.
3. there is quite a bit of research that most with autism even those with Asperger's or those who just exhibit minor social challenges, have increased brain activity in the amygdala which contributes to an over-reactive fight or flight response which could account for erratic, unexplainable behavior or being "stuck". What is a trigger for one person may be absolutely nothing for another. Even those without autism but may have a history of some childhood trauma and may have these tendencies.
4. Spitting, slapping, resisting in anyway a restraint- could result in a charge of Assault on a law enforcement officers and a class 6 felony charge which then:
 - a. Puts the social services at risk- SNAP (specifically asks if recipient has a felony charge or has not complied with parole, Medicaid waiver, SSI benefits.)
 - b. Puts the individual in the judicial process which does not allow for the disability of the individual.
 - c. Puts the individual in the position of needing expensive legal services. (public defenders overwhelmed with cases and without background and expertise in special needs clients)
 - d. Adds another stress onto a family already in crisis.
5. My son has Autism and an autoimmune disorder (PANDAS) that results in brain inflammation after a strep infection. He has panic attacks, fight or flight responses and he has had a tic for 10 years where he spits uncontrollably with copious amount of phlegm.
 - a. The first time we called in a mental health crisis for an ambulance to take him the hospital in crisis- the police arrived too and they tasered him 4 times. He was naked on our front porch and weighed maybe 125 pounds. Tasers shoot fish hooks into your skin which are painful and traumatic mentally and physically.
 - b. He also has spit on a police officer as his anxiety increased and in a panic, scratched one on the hand. The officer told me he had to report it. We lived in terror until we were told no charges would be filed. But very rarely is that discretion used to the benefit of the individual.
6. We are talking about de-felonizing this charge of assault- not decriminalizing.
7. Commonwealth Attorneys in support have spoken recently:
 - a. Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano is in favor of removing the clause all together from the statute with the felony classification for certain individuals. (stated in Townhall sponsored by Del. Tran with Del. Charniele Herring attending on July 22, 2020)
 - i. Not a deterrent and there are other charges that a true assault can be charged.
 - ii. Assault and Battery is a misdemeanor charge and should be for everyone.
 - b. Prince William County and Manassas City Commonwealth Attorney, Amy Ashworth July 7, 2020 Senate Judiciary Committee virtual meeting.
- i. Supports defelonization of assault on a LEO.

Teresa	Champion	Virginia Autism Project	Defelonization of Assault on Law Enforcement Officer.
--------	----------	-------------------------	---