

## Testimony by Ann L. Gantt

I have three main points I would like to share:

1. Having a longtime career in the social work field, I certainly understand the need for occasional change. Sometimes it is necessary to revisit laws and policies that may be flawed in some way.
2. Since the murder of my grandson, I now also have the perspective as a victim/survivor. My personal and professional perspectives have been forever impacted by this tragic event.
3. So, while I am not completely against reform, I am particularly disturbed by a law or policy that would become retroactive. The sentence that is imposed is a huge part of closure. It contributes to having some measure of feeling that justice has been served. Changing that down the road is like ripping a band aid off of a wound that has begun to heal. It also makes it easy to lose faith in the justice system. A family is told one outcome at the time of sentencing that they believed would stick. Yet, it did not. Most importantly, the deceased will never have the opportunity for a do over.