



March 10, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Support for House Bill 1343 – Criminal Procedure – Expungement - Expansion**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members:

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I stand in strong support of House Bill 1343, which makes several changes to the expungement statutes, including eligibility to file a petition for expungement of records pertaining to a conviction for a misdemeanor, as specified, or a felony other than a crime of violence, a crime requiring registration as a sexual offender, a hate crime, or a crime of animal cruelty. The bill also eliminates various disqualifying factors and alters the waiting periods for filing a petition for expungement. A criminal record can serve as the cause and consequence of poverty, limiting access to economic and social stability. Criminal records can hinder people attempting to get jobs, find housing, or seek education.

My administration has always and will continue to value justice over convictions. Automatic expungement for individuals as they attempt to rebuild their lives is the embodiment of justice. Justice is what is fair and appropriate. Our office is uncompromisingly committed to accountability, professionalism, and transparency, and is working towards a future where community trust in the criminal justice is restored. This bill will go a long way towards achieving that goal.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB1343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn J. Mosby".

Marilyn J. Mosby  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City