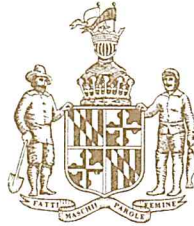


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 874
WORKGROUP TO STUDY PARTIAL EXPUNGEMENT
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2021

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 874 is fairly simple and straightforward. It establishes a workgroup to study and to develop both legislative and practical recommendations related to the expungement of criminal charges that are not currently eligible to be expunged. The workgroup would be required to submit a related report to the General Assembly on or before January 5, 2022.

The workgroup would consist of two members of the State Senate, two members of the House of Delegates, the Public Defender (or their designee), one gubernatorial-appointed representative of the Job Opportunities Task Force, an appointed representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (or their designee). The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention would be tasked with staffing the workgroup.

There are numerous complexities to the issue of partial expungement and creating a workgroup to sort through these complexities would provide a path forward for many individuals who have previously made avoidable, non-violent mistakes. As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, finding a means of making individuals whole is something that is very important to me. In many cases, individuals spend their lifetimes being defined over non-violent crimes. This legislation would be a great step forward in providing a means to ensure that these individuals are not defined by the worst decisions that they have ever made and given a chance to make productive changes in their lives.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 874.