

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE REDEEM ACT: HB097

Expungement of Records – Modifications

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Monica Allen, JOTF Trainee

DATE: February 9, 2023

Monica Allen supports the REDEEM Act as a means of reducing the impact of incarceration and enhancing employment opportunities for lower-income workers and job seekers throughout the state. I have been trying to better myself by attending state free programs. I have completed programs since 2003 and I always have barriers blocking me from my Blessings, just the simply life things. Because of my prior drug arrest I could not get hired for jobs I applied for, and felt discouraged and that I could not succeed. Doors were closing in my face even though I did all the right things and completed several programs. I since gotten my record expunged and I have had no new arrests.

However, the cost of auto insurance in Baltimore City made it impossible for me to keep car insurance. So, I have concerns that any job that I get now may be lost because I can't pay for my transportation.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on The REDEEM Act.

Monica Allen

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