



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 11/ HOUSE BILL 550

Criminal Procedure - Partial Expungement

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

FROM: Gary Baynor

My name is Gary Baynor, and I support Senate Bill 11/ House Bill 550 to repeal the “Unit Rule,” which has stood as a permanent roadblock to criminal record expungement for entrepreneurs. I live in District 46 (East Baltimore) and am a recent graduate of the Time Organization Program. I came home as part of the Juvenile Restoration Act and had been trying to get on my feet ever since.

I’m 47 years old now but was 18 years old when incarcerated. I spent 27 years inside and left Patuxent in 2022. I understand that my current charges were terrible, which were from when I was a child growing up in a less-than-stable environment.

Today, I can only get some jobs, but I found work through the services of the JRA. Since then, I've been doing demolition with Mason-Dixon Companies and am being trained in Carpentry, Electrician, and Plumbing through HTP Homes.

My end goal right now is to stay out of the streets and continue to build a clothing business that I started during my incarceration. I'm trying to regain my LLC and have a copyright for all my designs. It's challenging to acquire loans for my small business and access my LLC because of my record. The Unit Rule is impacting my ability to secure access to participate in the economy properly. Which, of course, is why many return to the system. We've paid our debts to society, and when we try to get into the business world, we remain blocked.

Senate Bill 11/ House Bill 550 addresses the challenges associated with the ‘unit rule’ by providing for the ‘partial expungement’ of eligible charges within a unit of charges. Everyone must work if they expect to support themselves and their families. Maryland law shouldn’t be the reason returning citizens are locked out of employment over decades *after* they have served their time. Please pass this bill; I want to move on with my life and get the chance to get back on track. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report.