

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1030

Criminal Procedure - Expungement - GOOD CAUSE

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

FROM: Reverend Carlos Battle, New Shiloh Baptist Church & WE OUR US

Greetings Committee Members,

I am Carlos Battle, a resident of District 40 in West Baltimore and a reverend at New Shiloh Baptist Church. I support Good Cause Expungement to allow for the expungement of charges that may have involved a probation violation.

About 24 years ago, I received a possession with intent to distribute charge and took a plea deal because I was addicted to drugs and did not want to spend time in jail. I was sentenced to three years probation and 10 years of a suspended sentence. I was violated while on probation for missing a meeting and served the suspended sentence, making my charge permanently ineligible for expungement.

While incarcerated, I became the pastor of Sikesville Correctional Institution and attended Anne Arundel Community College. I also took classes on digital literacy to keep my skills up and worked in the library. Upon release, I came home and struggled to find employment. After years of searching, I found a job at Walmart and worked my way up to manager while earning a safe serve certification, allowing me to become a chef. I then moved on to Sinai Hospital as a chef for 10 years and currently work for Johns Hopkins University.

Today, I am in ministry at New Shiloh Baptist, attended by my friend and representative, Kweisi Mfume. I lead the prison and substance abuse ministry and am on the evangelism team. For six years, I have been a member of the WE OUR US MOVEMENT, distributing resources to the community, aiding the drug addicted, employing the youth with jobs, and giving hope in the streets of Baltimore.

God has done wonders in my life, and I wish to help my brothers experiencing similar struggles. This bill will help me, and many of my congregants expunge their records after finishing their debt to society. I urge a favorable report.