



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOOD CAUSE

Criminal Procedure - Expungement - GOOD CAUSE

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

FROM: Harold Coleman

Greetings Committee Members,

My name is Harold Coleman, I am a resident of District 10. I support Good Cause Expungement to allow expungements after someone like myself has served their time but has a probation violation.

In 2022, the Court of Special Appeals ruled that any probation violation means a conviction is indefinitely ineligible for expungement under a legal interpretation that a violation means that the individual has not “satisfactorily completed the sentence” (regardless of the nature of the violation).

This impacts me because I have violations from 1988 and 1997, after I served over 10 years. My violations were for failing a urinalysis test when I was sentenced to two-year probation for a car theft. I also was homeless for some time in my younger years and was placed on five-year probation for a 4th-degree burglary because I was arrested for sleeping on private property. I received a violation during this probation because I defended myself in a fight and received a second-degree assault charge.

As you can see, violations vary by individual and cause, and preventing expungements purely on the basis is unwise. My life was never easy, but I’ve been working for MDOT for 15 years at the Bay Bridge and have come to Annapolis on many occasions to testify on criminal record expungement bills so that people with my similar history can move on from their pasts and obtain relief.

I have served my time and do not believe that my violations in the 80s and 90s should bar me from getting my record expunged in 2024. Please move favorably on this bill.