



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony

#### HB 964 Landlords and Prospective Tenants - Residential Leases - Criminal History Review (Maryland Fair Chance in Housing Act)

TO: Delegate Marc Korman Chair and  
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
FROM: Karen “Candy” Clark, Criminal Justice Lead Advocate  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland =  
DATE: February 27, 2024

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM-MD) is called to support HB 964 since it aligns with our belief in the use of compassion, and justice in our dealings with other humans.

Our returning incarcerated citizens have many barriers that make a successful reentry challenging and often unattainable. One difficulty is finding an affordable place to live. Currently when a tenant is applying for a lease, the tenant must submit documentation if he/she is a listed sexual offender and a record of any criminal history in the past 7 years. This bill lessens the years to 3 which should enable more people to find housing.

We need to stop worrying about being too hard or soft on crime and enact policies that are “smart on crime.” This bill is a step in the right direction to assist individuals in starting a new path for their lives, which will reduce the recidivism rate in Maryland which saves money for the Correctional System.

Again UULM-MD asks for a favorable vote on HB 964

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen Clark*

UULM-MD Criminal Justice Lead Advocate

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