

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 482 w/ Amendments: Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Predetermination Review Process

TO: Hon. Pam Beidle, Chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Zachary Alberts, Director of Advocacy at the Center for Urban Families

DATE: March 17th, 2025

Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

The Center for Urban Families (CFUF), a West Baltimore workforce and family-strengthening community-based organization, advocates for legislative initiatives that strengthen urban communities by helping fathers and families achieve stability and economic success. We are proud to support HB 482, but with one critical amendment.

On page 3, lines 9 through 16, the bill drafter accidentally included brackets that ***should not be there***. If the bill passes as it is, individuals could now have records that are older than 7 years held against them when applying for licenses, when previously they could not. An amendment was intended to be made before the bill hearing in the House, but seems to have fallen through the cracks.

The intent of the bill is good, but passing in the current form without removing the accidental brackets would cause *more* harm to Marylanders with a record.

Thank you,
Zachary Alberts

