



# FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

---

**Jason Lee**

Chair, Reentry Advisory Coalition  
City of Frederick

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair of the Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger,

I write to you today in strong support of **House Bill 499 - the Expungement Reform Act of 2025**. As Chair of the Reentry Advisory Coalition for the City of Frederick, our coalition is committed to identifying and advocating for strategic steps that will support individuals in their journey of reintegration into society after incarceration. This bill is an essential component of those efforts.

Having personally lived the reintegration process for the past 30 years, I know firsthand the profound barriers that individuals face once they've served their time and paid their debts. Too often, the past continues to haunt them, preventing them from moving forward and becoming productive members of society. Our coalition, and our community, firmly believe that government should be a facilitator of opportunity, not a barrier to it. The ability to expand access to expungement is crucial to ensuring that those who have made a sincere effort to change are not held back by the weight of their past.

The Reentry Advisory Coalition's work emphasizes the importance of **gainful employment** in the successful reintegration of justice-impacted individuals. One of the greatest challenges that people with criminal records face in finding employment is the stigma attached to their past convictions. The opportunity to have a criminal record expunged, once the appropriate time has passed and the sentence has been fully served, is a critical step in removing that stigma. It provides a path for these individuals to show potential employers who they truly are now, not just who they were. It opens the door to second chances — to dignity, stability, and a future they deserve.

House Bill 499 recognizes that second chances should not be conditional on an arbitrary waiting period or unnecessary legal hurdles. By expanding eligibility and simplifying the expungement process, this bill will help remove one of the most persistent obstacles to employment for justice-impacted individuals: the public visibility of their criminal record. This will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many, ensuring that they are not perpetually punished for a past they've worked to leave behind.

Michael C. O'Connor  
Mayor



# FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Gayon M. Sampson  
Chief of Staff

Ericka Rohrbaugh  
Manager of Opportunity  
and Transformation

---

On behalf of the Reentry Advisory Coalition and in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of the City of Frederick, we strongly urge you to support House Bill 499. This bill is a vital step in fostering a more just and inclusive society — one where every person, regardless of their past, has the opportunity to succeed and contribute.

Thank you for your time and your leadership on this crucial issue. We are grateful for your commitment to creating opportunities for people who have already taken responsibility for their pasts, and are ready to take responsibility for their future and rebuild their lives.

Sincerely,  
Jason Lee  
Chair, Reentry Advisory Coalition  
City of Frederick