

<u>SB 432</u> <u>Criminal Records – Expungement and Maryland Judiciary Case Search</u> (Expungement Reform Act of 2025)

MCAA Position: **OPPOSE**

TO: Judicial Proceedings

DATE: March 21, 2025

FROM: Ryan Ross, President Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee Mary Ann Thompson, Legislative Committee

The Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association (MCAA), an organization comprised of our statewide jail wardens and administrators for promoting and improving best correctional practices, appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding SB 432.

No matter an employee's role, i.e., Correctional Officer, Civilian Support, Food Service, Medical, Mental Health, Case Management, Counselor, Volunteer, Clergy, and so on, in a Correctional Facility, they require access to sensitive information and critical infrastructure, requiring a high level of trust and reliability. While a record may be expunged, it does not address the underlying factors of criminal behavior. Specifically, a person with a felony conviction cannot carry a weapon to meet job requirements.

If an individual does have their record expunged but fails to disclose their criminal history, it can be viewed as a deliberate attempt to deceive, jeopardizing their chances of obtaining a clearance. Criminal conduct raises doubts about an individual's trustworthiness and adherence to the law, both critical aspects for roles with access to a secure correctional facility.

The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association strongly opposes this bill and respectfully requests that this committee issue an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** on Senate Bill 432.