



**House Bill 0499**

**Criminal Records – Expungement and Maryland Judiciary Case Search**

**(Expungement Reform Act of 2025)**

**In the House Judiciary Committee**

**Committee Hearing on March 4, 2025**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

As Chief Policy Officer for REFORM Alliance, I write on behalf of my organization in strong support of the Expungement Reform Act of 2025. REFORM Alliance is dedicated to transforming probation and parole systems across the United States by implementing evidence-based reforms that reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation, and ensure public safety. To date, we have passed 18 bipartisan bills in 11 states, creating pathways for 850,000 people to exit the system.

A criminal record can devastate an individual's ability to secure a job, housing, education, and essential services - elements vital both for rebuilding lives and for maintaining public safety. Expungement is a proven tool in this regard. National data, according to the [Cato Institute](#), shows that between 6-8% of those granted expungement are rearrested within five years compared to recidivism rates nearing 50%. Fewer crimes mean fewer victims and more people moving forward with their lives.

Since 2018, more than 150,000 Marylanders have had their records cleared. That progress is encouraging. Yet, new court holdings threaten to impede this progress by unnecessarily precluding expungement for anyone with even one technical violation, regardless of how minor or long ago it occurred.

These technical violations are rarely the result of new criminal behavior. Instead, they usually stem from the challenges of navigating an overly complicated supervision system. Across the many states where REFORM Alliance has worked, from Pennsylvania to Florida, Georgia to California, we see similar obstacles. Imagine the anxiety of juggling mandated courses, treatment programs, officer meetings, and a full-time job to cover fees, fines, and rent while ensuring your children get to school on time. One missed appointment or late arrival can trigger a violation that locks a person into a cycle of supervision, debt, and stigma.

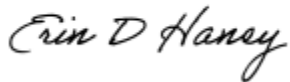
SB 432 and HB 499 ensure that if someone completes their sentence and remains law-abiding, they deserve a fresh start. Would we prevent a student from graduating because of one poor semester in their sophomore year, even if they excelled afterward?

# REFORM

Advancing this legislation would bring Maryland in line with national trends. With more than 30 states limiting incarceration for technical violations, over 18 states with earned credits incentives programs that reward compliance rather than punish for violations, and three of Maryland's neighboring states embracing forms of automatic expungement that do *not* restrict eligibility based on supervision violations. States are moving away from imposing lasting and dire consequences for technical violations and prioritizing evidence-based policies, safeguarding public safety, and strengthening communities.

I urge the committee to support this bill today.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin D Haney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

/s/  
Erin Haney, Esq.  
REFORM Alliance  
Chief Policy Officer