

3/3/2025

Written Testimony - HB0499- Hearing 3/4/2025

Greetings, my name is Adrian Muldrow, and I was born and raised in Baltimore City. I support HB0499 because, like many Marylanders, I have made mistakes and have had encounters with the criminal justice system. I am still affected by a wrongful conviction. Although lawmakers passed a bill in 2021 called the Walter Lomax Act, which aims to restore justice for the wrongly accused, I had to represent myself pro se because there were no attorneys familiar with the law who would take on my case.

Without legal counsel and no provisions in the law to provide representation or a point of contact for support, I was left to navigate the process on my own. I filed for compensation under the Walter Lomax Act as a layman, but I was outmatched by the legal system, which created even more barriers. This experience forced me to relive the trauma I was trying to escape.

Similar to the "Ban the Box" initiative, there is a Maryland Criminal Record Complaint Form that can be submitted to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, but it lacks enforcement power. I filled out this form when my record was pulled by the Maryland Lottery, but nothing was done, and as a result, I am currently unemployed. With the rise of AI screening and HR screening processes, my situation has only worsened.

I have two questions:

1. Who will enforce these laws? Will there be attorneys available, and will there be fee waivers for court costs?
2. Who will be responsible for handling requests related to violations of these new laws?

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrian Muldrow

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