



Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 589:

Criminal Procedure - Partial Expungement

TO: Hon. William Smith., Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Tracey Glover

DATE: February 19, 2020

My name is Tracey Glover and I was invited by the Job Opportunities Task Force to testify in support of repealing the Unit Rule.

I worked for the State of Maryland for over 20 years in multiple capacities; I was a pretrial investigator for Pretrial Services, an office clerk for Foster Care, an intake reviewer for Parole and Probation, and a case manager for the Department of Social Services. I have never had any criminal trouble in my entire life but thanks to the Unit Rule I'm caught in a situation that has ruined my career.

In 2009, I took in my godson who was homeless and receiving a lead check. As the check was in an annuity fund, he needed to use me as a payee for his account. He consistently requested large withdrawals of \$300 from M&T and I purchased supplies for him like food and clothing. I made sure to keep receipts from the transactions as I noticed his behavior turned erratic. Years later in late 2015, I was contacted by a detective who stated that my godson claimed falsely to his case manager that I stole money from him. I ended up with a warrant for my arrest as the paperwork for the indictment and bail hearings were sent to an old address.

Without any evidence, the charges layered against me included three felonies and a misdemeanor; namely, Theft over \$500, Theft over \$100,000, Obtaining Property from a Vulnerable Adult, and Embezzlement and Misappropriation, respectively. While I wanted to face the false claims in court, my lawyer advised me to take a plea deal and accept the embezzlement misdemeanor charge. This would spare me a possible 25-year sentence if the case went awry and I reluctantly accepted the deal. I was, of course, infuriated since I was innocent and fell into this for simply helping my lost godson get back on his feet.

I ended up spending 6 months in MCIW, another 9 months on home detention and am currently on parole for a crime I did not commit. To make matters worse, I can't find employment since every time employers conduct a background check, the three non-conviction felonies remain since they are part of the "Unit of Charges." I have applied for 132 positions on Indeed and was denied by all but one because of the unexpungable non-conviction charges in the unit.

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

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The one temporary position I did get shut down due to changes in management and now I am both jobless and penniless. My daughter's collegiate opportunity was dependant upon my state position and now she has had to drop out of school altogether. I live on \$215 monthly from governmental assistance and I worry daily about my fiscal wellbeing.

Repealing the Unit Rule would go a long way in helping to repair the damage the court system has done to my life. I would be able to return to the workforce and live my life the way it was supposed to be lived. For these reasons, I request a favorable report on Senate Bill 589.