



March 4, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for Senate Bill 811 - Criminal Procedure - Automatic Expungement

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 811, which, if passed, will provide that a person who has been charged with the commission of a certain crime, has been charged with a certain civil offense or infraction, or is the subject of a certain warrant, will be entitled to automatic expungement of certain records under certain circumstances; specifies that certain dispositions are eligible for automatic expungement at certain times; and prohibits a person entitled to automatic expungement from being required to pay any fee or costs in connection with the expungement. A criminal record can serve as the cause and consequence of poverty, limiting access to economic and social stability. Criminal records can hinder people attempting to get jobs, find housing, or seek education.

My administration has always and will continue to value justice over convictions. Automatic expungement for individuals as they attempt to rebuild their lives is the embodiment of justice. Justice is what is fair and appropriate. Our office is uncompromisingly committed to accountability, professionalism, and transparency, and is working towards a future where community trust in the criminal justice is restored. This bill will go a long way towards achieving that goal.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB811.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn J. Mosby". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marilyn J. Mosby
State's Attorney for Baltimore City