

March 10, 2020

Chairman Luke Clippinger
Vice Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 1336 – Criminal Procedure – Partial Expungement

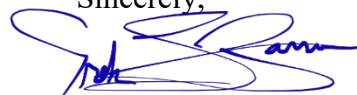
Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

In addition to the recent expansion of the access to expungement for certain misdemeanor convictions, **Maryland law, with one exception, has long allowed individuals to petition for the expungement of non-convictions.** However, a unique exception in Maryland is that an otherwise expungeable non-conviction is not available if it is charged in a unit or set of charges that includes a non-expungeable charge. **House Bill 1336 seeks to expand the ability to expunge non-convictions** by allowing the “partial expungement” of eligible charges within a unit of two or more charges and outlines a responsible process for the State to follow.

Despite current law, as the attached email from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services describes, some judges already order partial expungements. **House Bill 1336 would codify a responsible, transparent process that would allow the State’s Attorney the same right to object and, if the expungement is granted, law enforcement officials would still maintain access to the partially expunged charges.** The bill does *not* expand the scope of criminal offenses available for expungement.

This simple bill would have a tremendous impact on individuals with criminal histories seeking employment, housing and educational opportunities. Individuals should no longer be penalized for charges that they did not receive convictions for simply because they are grouped with other charges ineligible for expungement. **I urge your support for passage of the HB1336.**

Sincerely,



Ereik L. Barron
Delegate