



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 8, 2022

Senate Bill 710

Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Modifications

Support

NCADD-Maryland strongly supports Senate Bill 710.

NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the unintended collateral damage caused by our drug policies. When people who struggle with substance use disorders get treatment and start the recovery process, criminal records are often huge barriers to success. Obtaining employment and housing is difficult, and sometimes impossible. Without a place to live or a reliable income, some people are much more likely to re-offend and/or return to alcohol and drug use.

The legislation, also known as the REDEEM Act (Record Expungement Designed to Enhance the Employability for Marylanders), will provide access to the 1.5 million Marylanders who are shut out of the workforce due to a criminal record. The bill will reduce the expungement waiting periods of non-convictions, PBJs, and stets to within one year after the disposition, and allow misdemeanors and nonviolent felony convictions to be eligible for expungement within three and years, respectively, after the completion of the sentence, possible drug treatment, and any mandatory supervision, including parole and probation.

These kinds of policy changes are a necessary component to significantly improving our communities. When people have served their time, they should have the opportunities and supports needed to ensure they are able maintain productive lives and livelihoods with their families. Removing some of the barriers to success will also help people with substance use disorders maintain their recovery.

We urge your support of Senate Bill 710.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.

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