

SB0710, Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Modifications
Testimony in **Support**

To: Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Arielle Juberg, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

My name is Arielle Juberg. I am a resident of Baltimore County in District 8. I belong to Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) in Baltimore. SURJ is also working in collaboration with Out for Justice and Job Opportunities Task Force. I am testifying in **support** of SB0710, Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records – Modifications.

SB0710 matters to me because Marylanders deserve a second chance. Once someone has served their sentence for a nonviolent misdemeanor, it should not follow them for the rest of their life. Excluding someone from a job or an apartment because of a misdemeanor in their past erects unnecessary barriers. It also hurts our communities when people are blocked from jobs or homes because of a mistake in their past.

A criminal record can easily be both the cause and consequence of poverty. The appearance of a criminal record in a routine background check can, and often does, block access to employment, education, housing and occupational licensing- all of which are necessary to advance in Maryland. This bill seeks to expand access to criminal record expungement for the 1.5 million Marylanders with a criminal record by allowing nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions to be eligible for expungement three (3) and (5) years, respectively, after completing any mandatory supervision, including parole and probation.

Nonviolent misdemeanors, such as public urination, sleeping on a park bench, or riding public transit without a fare, are frequently the result of poverty or homelessness. Expunging these records after completion of any sentencing prevents these small violations from holding back someone who is looking for a job or applying for housing. It helps to break one link in the cycle of poverty so that progress is more accessible for those seeking education, a job, or an occupational license.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0710**. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.