

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 209
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3058 · 410-841-3058
800-492-7122 Ext. 3058
Nicole.Williams@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 957

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying in favor of **House Bill 957**, also known as **Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Felony Convictions**. This legislation would allow for an individual to file a petition to expunge police and court records of convictions for first-degree assault if it was not related to a case of domestic violence and if the individual has no prior convictions, for carjacking and for armed robbery.

There is a wide range of social and economic costs associated with a criminal record that show up throughout an individual's life. While varying from state to state, some professional licenses and accreditations, such as those required to be a real estate agent or dental hygienist, are unattainable to those who have a felony on their record. Such lasting effects of a criminal record, known as "collateral consequences," are severely inhibiting to an individual's well being and the opportunities that are available to them over their lifetime.

By passing this legislation, individuals who have served their time and have not committed any further offenses would have the option to seek to clear their records after a significant period of time has passed. This same opportunity will continued to not be afforded to those convicted of more serious crimes, such as murder, rape, felony sexual crimes, or felony domestic violence convictions. But for those with just three felonies, this legislation would give them a second chance at life.

You will hear from others on my panel why this bill is so important.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 957.

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.