



TESTIMONY FOR SB0138
Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Expansion

Bill Sponsor: Senator Patterson

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0138 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill expands the charges that can be expunged from a person's criminal record to include charges in which a probation before judgement verdict was delivered. This means that offenders who received probation, rather than a sentence, and met the terms of their probation can get the charges expunged within three years after the probation has been completed.

This seems more than fair, given that probation is a sentence that is reserved for minor crimes. A person who fulfilled the terms of their probation should not have that charge sitting on their record for the rest of their life.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.