



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate David Moon, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 1, 2023
RE: HB0664 Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records –

Good Cause

The MLLC supports HB0664 Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Good Cause, 2023

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0664.

In a state of just over 6 million, 1.5 million Marylanders have a criminal record. Across America, one in three African-American males and one in six Latino males, compared to one in seventeen white males, are expected to spend time in prison at some point in their lives.¹ Maryland currently leads the nation in incarcerating young Black men, incarcerating the highest percentage of people who are Black in the U.S., more than twice the national average;² and as of 2019, Maryland incarcerated more than 18,500 Latinx individuals.³ Records of conviction can be a major hurdle for recently released individuals as they reenter society and look for housing and employment. Inability to find housing or employment post-release is strongly associated with increased risk of reincarceration.⁴ This bill provides a life-line to reformed individuals who deserve a chance at a full and prosperous life, without the hindrance of their past mistakes following them.

HB0664 enables the court to grant a petition for expungement of conviction records at any time on a showing of good cause. This will allow previously convicted individuals, particularly Latinx and other people of color, to more easily find employment, housing, and more.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0664.

¹ [THOMAS P. BONCZAR, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, PREVALENCE OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE U.S. POPULATION, 1974–2001](#)

² [Rethinking Approaches to Over Incarceration of Black Young Adults in Maryland. \(2019, November 6\). Justice Policy Institute.](#)

³ [Nellis, A. \(2021\). The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons. The Sentencing Project.](#)

⁴ [Adjudicative Factors | USCIS. \(2021, May 11\). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.](#)