



HB 1163/SB 964

**Vice President Kavonté Duckett
Frederick County Council**

**Human Relations - Protections Against
Discrimination - Criminal Records**

Council Member Duckett Position: SUPPORT

Date: March 6, 2023
Committees: House Judiciary
Senate Rules

I am pleased to support HB 1163/SB 964, introduced by Delegates Tiffany Alston and Debra Davis in the House of Delegates, as well as SB 964, introduced in the Senate by Senators Joanne Benson, Jill Carter and Anthony Muse. I am in support of this legislation and am not speaking on behalf of the Frederick County Council.

This legislation would prohibit discrimination based on an individual's criminal record in public accommodations, commercial leasing, housing, and employment and by certain licensed or regulated persons; establishing certain exceptions to certain prohibitions established under the Act; and establishing that certain crimes are not included in the definition of "criminal record" for the purposes of certain provisions prohibiting discrimination.

Society has painfully become more aware of systemic roadblocks for some in working for a truly equitable society in America. A report released in 2021 from The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C.-based research and advocacy center, found that Black Americans are incarcerated at nearly 5 times the rate of white Americans, whereas Latino Americans are imprisoned 1.3 times the rate of white Americans.

According to the report, Black Americans are incarcerated at a state average of 1,240 per 100,000 residents, whereas Latino Americans are imprisoned at a rate of 349 per 100,000 residents. White, non-Latino Americans, meanwhile, are incarcerated at 261 per 100,000 residents.

It should be enough that after someone has paid their debt to society that we allow that person then to have a "clean slate" and work fairly to rebuild their credit, their housing needs, and their life,

Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable committee report on both HB 1163/SB 964.