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BILL NO: House Bill 664  
TITLE: Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Good Cause  
COMMITTEE: Judiciary  
HEARING DATE: February 23, 2023  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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House Bill 664 would alter the Court and Judicial Proceedings Article to add the ability to seek expungement of a court or criminal record for good cause. The Women's Law Center (WLC) supports HB 664 because we believe in second chances and this bill would allow for a person to be heard and perhaps be granted expungement if their individual circumstances merit it.

Over the past several years the Legislature has modified the state's expungement laws, generally to allow for expungement in increased circumstances. House Bill 664 would add this simple provision. The person seeking expungement would have to convince a court that good cause exists to expunge their criminal charge. For the purposes of the WLC, this bill does not alter any expungement for criminal convictions of domestically related crimes. Those domestically related crimes, perpetrated against a specific victim, must adhere to existing laws on expungement. And HB 664 will not flood the courts with requests as other provisions apply in certain circumstances.

Therefore, the Women's Law Center urges a favorable report on House Bill 664.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, membership organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. Our mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. We advance our mission through direct legal representation, information and referral hotlines, and advocacy.*