

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 664:**

**Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Good Cause**

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: **Gary Baynor**

**My name is Gary Baynor**, and I support House Bill 664 as a means of reducing the impact of incarceration and increasing access to business ventures for entrepreneurs. I live in District 46 (East Baltimore) and am a recent graduate of the Time Organization Program. I came home as part of the Juvenile Restoration Act and had been trying to get on my feet ever since.

I'm 46 years old now but was 18 years old when incarcerated. I spent 27 years inside and left Patuxent in 2022. I understand that my current charges were terrible, which were from when I was a child growing up in a less-than-stable environment.

Today, I can only get some jobs, but I found work through the services of the JRA. Since then, I've been doing demolition with Mason-Dixon Companies and am being trained in Carpentry, Electrician, and Plumbing through HTP Homes.

My end goal right now is to stay out of the streets and continue to build a clothing business that I started during my incarceration. I'm trying to regain my LLC and have a copyright for all my designs. It's challenging to acquire loans for my small business and access my LLC because of my record. Waiting 15 years additional before I can adequately access expungement is impacting my ability to secure access to participate in the economy properly. Which, of course, is why many return to the system. We've paid our debts to society, and when we try to get into the business world, we remain blocked.

**House Bill 664** allows the courts to grant a petition for expungement at any time on a showing of good cause. Thus, the courts can use their judicial discretion in determining expungements, as [one judge did in Baltimore County, to get around the unit rule issue](#). This provision already exists in [Criminal Procedure §10–105 \(c9\)](#) but only applies to non-convictions and is rarely used. Everyone must work if they expect to support themselves and their families. Maryland law shouldn't be the reason returning citizens are locked out of employment over decades *after* they have served their time. Please pass this bill; I want to move on with my life and get the chance to get back on track.