

## In Support (FAV) of Bill HB223

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, I went to Harford District courthouse for an appearance. I noticed an officer standing there by the courtroom door. My case was postponed so I came out of the courtroom thinking about what I needed to do that day and to let my wife know what happened. Next thing, I was slammed against the wall face first and cuffed. The officer then asked if I was Alonzo Sawyer and I replied "Yes." He then said he was with the US Marshall Office and I asked what was it about? He did not respond. I then said Sir, you have the wrong person. I knew from the break that I didn't do anything for the US Marshall to question me, come get me, or charge me with anything. Regardless, he whisked me out of the courtroom. Threw me in the SUV. I kept asking why I was being locked out. I asked if I could call my wife. First, he acted like he didn't hear me and then say I would find out later. A transport van later came and transported me to another building. I found out later it was the Baltimore County Metro Police Station. The police proceeded to ask me questions. They were asking me questions regarding my whereabouts. Still not knowing what was going on. My brain froze. Another detective came in and showed me a picture of a guy asking if it was me and said I been identified in an assault and strong-armed robbery on an assault of the female bus driver. I've never been on an MTA bus. I don't know my way around Baltimore. I don't hit women. I said it wasn't me. It was like he wasn't hearing me and thought I was lying. Then he told me I was identified by someone. I said who? It's no way anyone identified me because it wasn't me. That's when they said it was my parole officer Mr. Daugherty. I said how can he give a positive id when he never seen me totally? They didn't believe me and charged me with robbery and assault. They asked to search my sister in laws house and I said no. I couldn't believe it. In their mind I was already guilty. I went before the Commissioner and was denied bail. Reality hit me when they said no bail. Then to Towson for the 2<sup>nd</sup> bail review. Bail was denied, again. Now I am facing all this time for something I didn't do. It was like no one believed me other than my wife and family. Now my anxiety kicked in and I am scared because I am sitting here knowing I didn't do what I was charged with. I missed another court date while I was detained causing Frederick courthouse to have a detainer for FTA. If it wasn't for my wife investigating and doing the leg work in my behalf, I believe I still would have been incarcerated on those charges today. A total of 9 days locked up with no bail. Fearful that I could really be found guilty of something I did not do. I am a contractor and lost a job opportunity while incarcerated. I am scared and angry. My whole life was turned upside down based on facial recognition. Anyone can be caught up in something that they didn't do. It's like if facial recognition identifies you then you're doomed. Forget all the other evidence and characteristics proving it wasn't me. Had the police and State's attorney done their job in the beginning they would have known it wasn't me and I would not have been charged or locked up. My life would have been in shambles if it hadn't been for my wife. This a Blackman's nightmare, being charged for something you know you didn't do, being lost in the system, and no one believing you.

Falsely accused and detained. Loss of income. That is time I can never get back. Those feelings and emotions will stay with me forever. I am afraid, I am angry, and anxious. I suffer from PTSD and this further heighten my disorder and I am anxious and paranoid all the time. Especially, with law enforcement. Knowing that at any giving time my rights can be violated.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

Sincerely

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