



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 1, 2023

Re: **HB943 - SUPPORT**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Annapolis Capital and the Frederick News Post to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as MoCo 360 and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support HB 943, which will clarify that case records may be disclosed to the public if the records contain de-identified data and will be formatted to facilitate research. In recent years, the call to increase expungement of records had created some unintentional consequences. Reporters often look to case records to identify trends and large data sets to better understand and shed light on the justice system and how it impacts Marylanders.

We believe this legislation is an important step forward to will bring more transparency and openness to the justice system.

The Press Association urges a favorable report.



**We believe a strong news media is
central to a strong and open society.**

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