



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 658:

Criminal Procedure – Automated Expungement, Waiting Periods, and Adverse Actions (Clean Slate Act of 2024)

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Zachary Alberts, Director of Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives at the Center for Urban Families

DATE: March 5th, 2024

Good afternoon, my name is Zachary Alberts. I am a resident of district 46 and the Director of Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives at the Center for Urban Families, a workforce and family strengthening program in Baltimore City. We are here to support House Bill 658, which will further our goal to remove the barrier a criminal record imposes on our clients' ability to find and retain employment.

At the Center for Urban Families, we help individuals that live in the most underserved, underrepresented, and disconnected areas in Baltimore City. What they also have in common is that they dream of something better and are actively participating in the training, coaching and skills building that will make that dream a reality. 50% of the individuals in our job training programs have a criminal record. This legislation will be a positive step toward ensuring that when they graduate, they are able to immediately begin employment and support themselves, their families, and their community.

Our only feedback is that we would like the bill to reflect other testimony you will hear, which would have expungement defined as true obliteration.

Thank you for your time.

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For more information, contact:

Zachary Alberts / Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives / zalberts@cfuf.org / 214-728-5557