



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 550:**

**Criminal Procedure - Partial Expungement**

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. I am here to support House Bill 550, which furthers the progress Maryland has already made in increasing the efficacy and availability of criminal record expungements.

I am also here on behalf of Bobbi Lewis-Collick, a Center for Urban Families' client, staff member, and my friend. Bobbi submitted written testimony, but she could not be here today because she is busy training a new employee in our finance department; she is training a new employee for a high-paying job that Bobbi is more than capable of doing but cannot because she has a felony on her criminal background that prevents her from receiving her CPA license.

30 years ago, when Bobbi was 18, she made a mistake. While she was being arrested for a felony, she lied to the police officer and said she was her sister. That felony is expungable on its own, but because it is in the same unit as having made a false statement to a law enforcement officer - which is not expungable - the felony also cannot be.

Passing this bill would allow Bobbi and our other clients like her full access to the breadth of Maryland's expungement benefits and allow them to advance their lives and their careers. As you consider your vote on this bill, I ask that you think of Bobbi and give a favorable report.

Thank you for your time.

**For more information, contact:**

Zachary Alberts / Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives / [zalberts@cfuf.org](mailto:zalberts@cfuf.org) / 214-728-5557