

My name is Derek Liggins and I am here to support House Bill 523. The laws around expungement are one of the main causes of the lack of growth in the black community. With a favorable vote on this bill, it will change lives and remove some of the barriers that impact returning citizens so they can be successful if we truly believe in rehabilitation. I'm a returning citizen living in Baltimore City's 45th district. My conviction was in 1994. Since then, I've become a homeowner employed with the same mechanical engineering company for the past 15 years. I am a different person today than I was 30 years ago. My record has directly affected my income. As my company takes on more government contracts, I can't work those government contracts because of the current expungement laws. With the scale wage that's paid on these contracts I could make extra \$20,000 per year to my salary. This bill could make a difference in my life, my family's life and people like me. I'm asking for a favorable vote on this bill.