



**House Judiciary Committee**

**March 5, 2024**

**House Bill 550**

**Criminal Procedure - Partial Expungement**

**Support**

NCADD-Maryland strongly supports House Bill 550. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the unintended collateral damage caused by our drug policies. When people who struggle with substance use disorders get treatment and start the recovery process, criminal records are often huge barriers to success. Obtaining employment and housing is difficult, and sometimes impossible. Without a place to live or a reliable income, some people are much more likely to re-offend and/or return to alcohol and drug use.

House Bill 550 will allow people who have more than one charge or conviction to have each evaluated and processed on its own in attempts to expunge them from a person's record. Treating the charges or convictions individually may allow some people to reduce the number of items on their records, reducing the discrimination that so often follows those who have been incarcerated.

These kinds of policy changes are a necessary component to significantly improving our communities. When people have served their time, they should have the opportunities and supports needed to ensure they are able maintain productive lives and livelihoods with their families. Removing some of the barriers to success will also help people with substance use disorders maintain their recovery.

We urge your support of House Bill 550.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*