HB0658_RichardKaplowitz_FAV 3/05/2022

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0658 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0658, Criminal Procedure – Automated Expungement, Waiting Periods, and Adverse Actions (Clean Slate Act of 2024)

The idea behind this bill is simple – a person who has come out of the criminal justice system should be made whole to facilitate their reintegration into society. A criminal record affects that person's chance at employment and housing and voting among other privileges.

Some charges are those that, under the presumption that time in prison is a deterrent to future actions, can be removed from a person's record to ratify that presumption. This bill also establishes reporting procedures and monitoring to ensure that automatic expungement is having the desired effects on lowering recidivism from repeat offenders.

This bill moves us from viewing criminal justice as only punishment towards rehabilitation. It removes roadblocks that negatively impact that rehabilitative goal.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0658.