



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 05, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Office Building
2 East Miller Senate Office
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for Senate Bill 432 – Expungement Reform Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 432, the Expungement Reform Act of 2025. This legislation represents a meaningful step towards creating a more just and equitable legal system by ensuring that individuals who have paid their debt to society have a fair opportunity to move forward with their lives.

SB432 makes critical improvements to Maryland's expungement laws by streamlining the process for individuals seeking a second chance. Specifically, this bill:

- Reduces waiting periods for filing expungement petitions based on the completion of a sentence, including probation and parole.
- Expands the list of eligible misdemeanor convictions for expungement.
- Requires courts to assess a petitioner's ability to pay restitution before granting expungement, ensuring that financial hardships do not permanently bar individuals from relief.
- Prohibits Maryland Judiciary Case Search from displaying records of cases that resulted in acquittals, dismissals, or nol pros, as well as certain pardoned convictions.

In Baltimore City, many individuals face lifelong barriers to employment, housing, and economic stability due to past convictions, even after demonstrating rehabilitation and full compliance with their sentences. The reforms in SB432 will allow more Marylanders to reintegrate into society as productive citizens, reducing recidivism and strengthening our communities.

Public safety and justice must work hand in hand. While we remain committed to holding offenders accountable, we must also recognize the importance of redemption and



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rehabilitation. By passing SB432, Maryland will take a significant step toward ensuring that individuals who have served their time are not permanently defined by their past mistakes.

I urge the committee to give SB432 a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ivan J. Bates

Ivan J. Bates
State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Submitted By: Hassan Giordano
Chief, External Affairs Division