



**Written Testimony to the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
SB.398– Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement**

**Sponsors: Senator McKay**

**February 5, 2025**

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Baltimore Committee, I write to you in support of SB.398, referred to as “Clean Slate Maryland.” By automating the process of clearing eligible misdemeanor records, this bill can provide second chances for thousands of Marylanders, improve our economy, and strengthen communities across our state.

As the leading voice for the private sector in the Baltimore region, GBC is actively engaged in collective efforts to grow a dynamic and inclusive regional economy. Clean Slate is vital to this work. As labor shortages persist, we need to reduce barriers that needlessly keep hardworking Marylanders out of the workforce. Yet even decades-old criminal records can prevent residents from finding meaningful employment. With approximately 400,000 individuals across the state currently eligible to have their records cleared, Clean Slate would dramatically expand the number of workers and support businesses from Baltimore to Bethesda. This in turn would allow employers across the state to tap into a more expansive talent pool of qualified potential employees.

The impact on the economy can hardly be overstated. The United States loses about [\\$87 billion in GDP](#) each year due to the underemployment of people with criminal records. A study in Michigan found that the automated process for record clearing increased wages [by 22% within the first year](#), putting more money into the pockets of consumers and creating a stronger economy for Maryland.

GBC is actively working towards creating a more prosperous and inclusive future for Baltimore. That means giving our neighbors the opportunities they need and deserve. We urge the Committee to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer S. Vey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" and last name "Vey" being clearly legible.

Jennifer S. Vey  
Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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