

**Senate Bill 649**  
**Judicial Proceedings**  
**Favorable**

Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 649, regarding the expungement of charges with a "no finding" designation, a favorable report. I don't know if this bill would apply to me personally, but I'd like to share my situation.

Over the summer, a member of my community (who has harassed and lied about me for years) tried to get a peace order against me because she claimed that I was threatening her by insinuating that she's a white supremacist. The judge had to explain to her that my words are protected by the 1st amendment. The judge ruled that there was "no statutory basis for relief" and denied the peace order. When I went to the court services counter, I was told that the case could be expunged immediately **only** if I signed away my right to sue the person who tried to get the peace order. Otherwise, I would have to wait for three years. I'm not willing to sign away my right to sue this person who has, once again just this month, lied about me on social media by accusing me of inciting violence against Trump (absolutely absurd,) stalking her and her children in public (we attend the same Board of Education meetings,) and threatening her (which never happened.)

Due to the nature of my career path, potential employers sometimes do background checks on me. Since this peace order was outright denied due to "no statutory basis for relief," I believe that it should be expunged without me having to give up my right to sue for defamation. At the very least, it should be sealed. I think this should be the case for everyone whose cases haven't resulted in a conviction, peace order, etc. Some people use the court system to harm those who they dislike, and the victims of this shouldn't be punished for that.

If my situation isn't covered by Senate Bill 649, then I ask that legislation be written so that cases like mine can easily be expunged. In either case, I support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD