

Governor's Expungement Bill

Dear Chair Smith and the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Tavon Jamaal Partlow Sr., and I am a resident of District 41. I am writing in support of SB 432, the Expungement Reform Act of 2025. This bill allows the expungement of otherwise expungable convictions that have an associated parole, probation or mandatory supervision violation. It also adds several commonsense misdemeanors to the expungement statute.

My personal experience with the legal system has been deeply transformative. Having served 12 years in prison, I understand the harsh realities of the system and the weight of a criminal record. My time behind bars was marked by constant struggles, but it also taught me resilience. I emerged determined to rebuild my life, but despite the changes I made, I still faced significant barriers due to my criminal record. Finding employment, securing housing, and rebuilding a future were all hindered by the shadow of my past mistakes. That's why I believe it's critical to support legislative efforts like SB 432, which would allow individuals who have demonstrated the ability to change to have their records expunged, giving them a real shot at a second chance.

I believe criminal record expungements are important because they provide individuals with the opportunity to move forward and reintegrate into society without the constant burden of their past mistakes. Expunging a record is not about erasing history, but about recognizing a person's potential for growth and transformation. When people are given the chance to rebuild their lives without being permanently marked by their criminal history, they become more likely to contribute positively to their communities and avoid reoffending. Legislative measures like SB 432 are essential for creating a more just and equitable society, where everyone, regardless of their past, has the opportunity to thrive and make a meaningful impact. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tavon Jamaal Partlow Sr. in black ink, written in a cursive style.