

Dear Chair Smith and the Judicial
Proceedings Committee,

My name is Demetrious Jones and I am a resident of District 7. I am writing in support of SB 398, Automated Expungement. This bill automatically hides all expungable misdemeanors from public view in electronic court records. I believe criminal record expungements are important because it restores privacy to the individual by giving them the ability to avoid disclosure of expungable misdemeanors. It also improves employment opportunities by reducing the number of criminal records visible to employers. Last, but not least, it restores a sense of dignity and self respect to the individual(s) that have made wrong choices and are trying to atone for their actions and / or behavior.

I believe individuals do not pursue expungements because of a fear of being re-

incarcerated. Also, for fear of being fined and made to pay financial restitution. And often times the cost associated with sealing one's record is not affordable for the individual. For this reason I believe the expungement and sealing process should be automatic as possible to make sure that everyone who can benefit from the law does. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Demetrious Jones