



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 432/ HOUSE BILL 499

Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Completion of Sentence

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Harold Coleman

Greetings Committee Members,

My name is Harold Coleman, I am a resident of District 10. I support Senate Bill 432/ House Bill 499 to allow expungements after someone like myself has served their time but has a probation violation.

In 2022, the Court of Special Appeals ruled that any probation violation makes a conviction indefinitely ineligible for expungement. Under this legal interpretation, a violation means that the individual has not “satisfactorily completed the sentence” (regardless of the nature of the violation).

This impacts me because I have violations from 1988 and 1997, after I served over 10 years. My violations were for failing a urinalysis test when I was sentenced to two-year probation for a car theft. I also was homeless for some time in my younger years and was placed on five-year probation for a 4th-degree burglary because I was arrested for sleeping on private property. I received a violation during this probation because I defended myself in a fight and received a second-degree assault charge.

As you can see, violations vary by individual and cause, and preventing expungements purely on this basis is unwise. My life was never easy, but I’ve worked for MDOT for 15 years at the Bay Bridge and have come to Annapolis on many occasions to testify on criminal record expungement bills so that people with similar histories can move on from their pasts and obtain relief.



I have served my time and do not believe that my violations in the 1980s and 1990s should prevent me from having my record expunged in 2025. Please move favorably on this bill.