



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3185 • 301-858-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Fax 410-841-3175 • 301-858-3175 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

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Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for Senate Bill 432 (SB 432) Expungement Reform Act of 2025. This bill introduces crucial reforms to Maryland's expungement process by reducing waiting periods, expanding eligibility for record clearance, and prohibiting the Maryland Judiciary Case Search from displaying certain case records. **Senate Bill 432 is a 2025 Black Caucus legislative priority bill.**

In Maryland, Black communities are disproportionately impacted by the long-term consequences of criminal records due to systemic racial disparities in policing and sentencing. [The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy](#) found that Black Marylanders are arrested and convicted at higher rates than their white counterparts for similar offenses, particularly for nonviolent drug-related crimes. [The collateral consequences of a criminal record create significant barriers](#) to employment, housing, and economic stability, perpetuating cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement. SB 432 ensures that individuals who have completed their sentences, including probation and parole, can more swiftly seek expungement, removing unnecessary obstacles to full reintegration into society.

The bill's expansion of expungement eligibility and restrictions on public case records will help reduce the stigma associated with past convictions, allowing Black Marylanders greater access to jobs, education, and stable housing. Research indicates that expungement significantly improves employment prospects, with one study finding that [wages increase by over 20%](#) within a year of record clearance. Additionally, SB 432 provides justice for those convicted of cannabis possession—offenses that have historically been enforced disproportionately against Black individuals—by ensuring that pardoned convictions are removed from public view.

SB 432 directly addresses racial inequities in the criminal justice system by giving individuals a fair chance to rebuild their lives and contribute to their

communities. It aligns with the Black Caucus' commitment to advancing economic justice, reducing barriers to opportunity, and dismantling systemic policies that disproportionately harm Black and minority communities in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports **Senate Bill 432** and urges this committee to vote favorably.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland