

I strongly oppose HB0055 (Expungement of Criminal Convictions)

**1. Weakens Accountability for Criminal Offenses**

- Allows individuals with **serious felony and misdemeanor convictions** to have their records erased, potentially undermining **consequences for criminal behavior**.
- Could send the message that criminal activity can be **easily erased** rather than properly accounted for.

**2. Public Safety Concerns**

- Law enforcement, employers, and the public **may no longer have access to crucial information** about an individual's past offenses.
- Could make it easier for repeat offenders to **avoid scrutiny** when engaging in activities that require background checks (e.g., working with vulnerable populations).

**3. Potential Risks for Employers and the Public**

- Employers conducting background checks **would not see past criminal records**, which could lead to **unintended hiring risks**, particularly in sensitive industries like healthcare, childcare, or financial services.
- Landlords and business owners **could unknowingly rent or do business with individuals with a serious criminal past**.
- Expunging serious offenses could make it harder for victims, law enforcement, and the public to **track repeat offenders**.

**Please vote Unfavorable against HB0055!**

Nancy Shih

Howard County