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## **POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**BILL: HB 318 Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Failure to Obey a Court Order to Report to Confinement**

**FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**DATE: March 4, 2025**

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**The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (MOPD) respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on HB 318.** If passed, this bill will provide individuals convicted of failure to obey a court order to report to confinement with the same opportunity to have that conviction expunged as people convicted of other misdemeanors.

MOPD has been working with expungement clients for over two decades through our expungement clinics, community events, and case representation. Expungement serves an important role in reducing the long-term collateral consequences of a conviction. By restoring opportunities for employment, professional licensure, housing, and other basic resources, expungement enables people with criminal histories to be productive members of their community.

Given the public safety benefits of expungement, MOPD supports all expungement bills that will allow our clients to remove the barriers of a criminal record.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 318.**

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.**  
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