



TESTIMONY FOR HB0545

Criminal Procedure - Automatic Expungement

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Moon

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0545 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

As Maryland, and other states wrestle with the fact that so many residents have been incarcerated for simple possession of marijuana, we must find a quick method for removing the stain that those convictions have had on the lives of so many people. This bill would mandate that all records related to misdemeanor convictions for possession as the only charge be immediately expunged after July 2027 if at least 3 years has passed since the disposition of the case. For charges related to domestic violence or assault in the second degree, at least seven years must have passed since the disposition of the case.

We believe that this is not only necessary, but past due for so many people.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.