

Testimony of Dr. Sabrina D’Niaye

Representing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

- [HB55 –Expungement of Records - Good Cause](#)

2-minute testimony **Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 4, Judiciary Committee – 1pm, Room 100**

Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Barlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Dr. Sabrina N’Diaye. I am here before you today as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an international organization with more than 1,000 chapters and 350,000 initiated members.

Twenty-five chapters are located right here in the State of Maryland, representing every county.

This legislation represents a significant stride toward justice and redemption, underpinned by our shared belief in second chances and rehabilitation.

Senate Bill HB55 moves us closer to empowering returning citizens with the mechanism to petition for expungement of certain eligible offenses. Allow me to expound on the profound impact expungement could have:

1. Returning citizens are empowered through increased employment opportunities because their criminal record is often the biggest hurdle in securing gainful employment.
2. Rehabilitated citizens gain access to housing to create/enhance stability and growth for their families.
3. An expunged record widens the gates for those who seek self-improvement and economic mobility through higher education and training.
4. When certain offenses are wiped clean from a person’s record, it dismantles barriers to community engagement, supports family unity, and fosters societal inclusion.

HB55 embodies the values of forgiveness, growth, and equity. Members of the committee, on behalf of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I urge you to contemplate the long-term benefits that HB55 will usher in—not only for individuals seeking redemption but for society at large, which thrives when each of its members is accorded dignity and opportunity.