

HB0055_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0055 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0055, Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause

This bill acknowledges that past enforcement of laws in Maryland has had a disproportionate impact on certain population groups for certain judgements no longer considered criminal offenses requiring severe punishment. This bill is a racial and social justice attempt to correct those miscarriages of justice. It will facilitate a fresh start for those who have paid their debt to society by clearing their record that may have or is preventing them from resuming full participation in their community in housing, employment or other benefits of non-possession of any criminal record.

Maryland can correct this by passing this bill which will authorize a person to file a petition for expungement of any misdemeanor or felony conviction after the completion of the sentence, parole, probation, and any other form of mandatory treatment associated with the conviction. It will increase opportunities for this action by authorizing a court to grant a petition at any time on a showing of good cause. However, this bill will also provide that a denial of a certain petition may not be appealed, and a subsequent petition may not be filed for at least 5 years.

The pernicious effects of a criminal record in reestablishing oneself for housing and jobs is well known, this bill aids former convicts in their return to the community after serving a sentence.

This bill makes the moral and ethical standard for Maryland's treatment of certain criminal offenses and records of them no longer an impediment to people seeking to go on with their lives without the damages possession of criminal records afflicts on them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0055.