



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

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To: Judiciary Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 4, 2025

Re: **SUPPORT HB 365**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Annapolis Capital and the Maryland Gazette to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association supports HB 365, which would permit disclosure of expunged records as part of de-identified case data. More and more, journalists are using large data sets to report on the justice and policing systems. With the plethora of expungement bills over the past few years, the case record is incomplete, with large holes. This makes it virtually impossible to assess patterns in charges, sentencing and other matters. Without this information the public lacks the ability to understand how the courts work and whether initiatives and laws passed by the General Assembly are working as intended.

This bill corrects the unintended consequences of expungement by allowing disclosure of de-identified case data.

We urge a favorable report.