

Dear Chair Clippinger and the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Antoine and I am a resident of District 7. I am writing in support of HB 545, Automated Expungement. This bill automatically hides all expungable misdemeanors from public view in electronic court records. I believe criminal record expungements are important because it allows individuals to clear their criminal records of convictions, arrests, or other adverse outcomes, giving them a second chance to rebuild their lives. By expunging their records, individuals can regain eligibility for employment, housing, education, and other opportunities that may have been limited or denied due to their criminal history.

I believe individuals may not pursue expungement due to various barriers, including lack of awareness, complex and costly legal processes, and eligibility restrictions. For that reason I believe the expungement and sealing process should be as automatic as possible to make sure that everyone who can benefit from the law does. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Antoine Vaughn