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Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 0482.

As a Maryland Republican, a parent, and a taxpayer, I am deeply concerned about legislation that expands government bureaucracy while weakening accountability and public trust. HB0482 creates a new criminal-history predetermination review process that allows applicants to seek preliminary approval before completing required education, training, background verification, or identity confirmation.

By separating criminal history review from the full licensing process, this bill increases the risk of incomplete disclosures, misrepresentation, and potential fraud. Licensing boards currently review criminal history within a comprehensive, verified application, using safeguards designed to protect the public. HB0482 would instead require agencies to conduct speculative reviews based on partial information, creating false assurances that could later be reversed or exploited.

The bill also diverts limited agency resources toward duplicative preliminary reviews rather than thorough final determinations, increasing administrative burden and costs borne by Maryland taxpayers. In professions involving vulnerable populations, controlled substances, or financial trust, weakening licensing integrity poses real and unnecessary risks.

Maryland should pursue reforms that promote opportunity without sacrificing safety, accountability, or professional standards. HB0482 fails to strike that balance, and for these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

Brooke A. El-Amin

Resident of Prince George's County, MD