



OUT FOR JUSTICE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0525:

Good Cause Expungements

FROM: Angelina Scarton

DATE: February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Angelina Scarton. I am a member of Out for Justice and a resident of District 30 in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 525, Good Cause Expungements, which allows courts to consider rehabilitation and the full context of a person's life when deciding whether a conviction should be expunged.

I am a mother of two. After a dispute with a landlord, I became the target of retaliatory accusations. In total, 19 charges were filed against me through a District Court Commissioner without evidentiary review. Most were later dropped or dismissed, and I ultimately accepted Probation Before Judgment on one charge to protect my family and move forward. During this period, I lost my business, my housing, and my financial stability, and I spent four months incarcerated pretrial.

Although I was eventually able to expunge my record, the process was extremely difficult. It required navigating a rigid system, filing multiple petitions, and enduring long delays. For many people without legal support or resources, that pathway to relief would be functionally out of reach.

Senate Bill 525 creates a structured and balanced process. It permits a petition five years after a misdemeanor and seven years after a felony, requires a hearing, and authorizes a court to grant expungement on a showing of good cause. Judges must consider rehabilitation, time passed, public safety, and the impact of the conviction on employment and economic stability. This ensures that decisions are individualized and grounded in present reality.

This bill does not erase accountability. It ensures fairness. For people like myself who have worked to rebuild our lives, it provides a meaningful opportunity to be judged on who we are today. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 525.** Thank you.