

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565 • 301-858-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Cumberland Office
100N Mechanic Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
240-362-7040

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

Senate Bill 483 – Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026)

February 17, 2026

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

Senate Bill 483, the Clean Slate Act of 2026, is a commonsense reform that modernizes Maryland's expungement process and ensures the law works as intended for people who have already earned relief. By requiring automated expungement of eligible cases, the bill removes unnecessary procedural barriers that currently prevent thousands of Marylanders from clearing records they are legally entitled to expunge. Automating this process promotes fairness and consistency across jurisdictions, reduces administrative burdens on the courts, and ensures that expungement is not dependent on an individual's ability to navigate a complex legal system or pay filing fees.

Just as importantly, SB 483 strengthens public safety and economic stability by allowing individuals with old, low-level, and nonviolent records to move forward with their lives once sufficient time has passed without reoffending. Clearing eligible records improves access to employment, housing, and education—key factors that reduce recidivism and strengthen communities. The bill preserves appropriate safeguards by excluding serious offenses and requiring significant waiting periods, striking the right balance between accountability and second chances. Senate Bill 483 reflects Maryland's commitment to smart justice policies that are efficient, fair, and focused on long-term community well-being.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties