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Submitted to:  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
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Testimony from the Maryland State Chapter of the  
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

**SUPPORT SB0483**  
**Criminal Procedure – Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026)**

Disclosure Statement: Maryland NORML has no paid staff – we are entirely energized by a core group of citizen volunteers and more than 5,000 other Marylanders committed to ending marijuana prohibition and establishing a regulated cannabis commercial market for adults. I have never had any stake or investment of any kind in any cannabis enterprise, nor does anyone in my family, and I have never received any fee or remuneration for consulting with any cannabis enterprise. As an organization, we have worked to reform state and federal marijuana laws for more than 50 years.

Maryland NORML strongly supports Senate Bill 483. Automated expungement is essential to ensuring that relief provided under Maryland law is meaningful, equitable, and accessible.

Criminal records—particularly for low-level offenses, including many past cannabis-related cases—create long-term barriers to employment, housing, education, and financial stability. Requiring individuals to navigate complex legal procedures to clear eligible records undermines the intent of reform. HB 360 corrects this by directing the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Judiciary to automatically expunge qualifying cases by July 1, 2028 and on an ongoing monthly basis thereafter.

Automation promotes fairness, efficiency, and public safety. It reduces administrative burdens on courts, eliminates disparities driven by income or legal access, and allows individuals who have remained crime-free for years to fully reintegrate into society.

Maryland voters and lawmakers have already expressed support for modern cannabis policy and second-chance measures. SB0483 ensures those reforms deliver tangible results rather than symbolic relief.

**For these reasons and more, we urge a favorable report on SB0483.**

M. Luke Jones, Maryland NORML