

My name is Derek Liggins and I writing to support House Bill 113, Resisting Arrest and Making a False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer.

The laws around expungement are one of the main causes of the lack of growth in the black community. With a favorable vote on this bill, it will change lives and remove some of the barriers that impact returning citizens so they can be successful if we truly believe in rehabilitation.

I'm a returning citizen living in Baltimore City's 45th district. My conviction was in 1994. Since then, I've become a homeowner and I have been employed with the same mechanical engineering company for the past 15 years.

In 1996, I was stopped by a police officer. This was during a period where I was trying to do better after previous stints of incarceration. Because I was scared of getting arrested, I followed my gut human impulse to get out of trouble, and gave the officer my older brother's name. Because of that I was convicted of false statement to a peace officer. There is no other charge in that case. Simply, I was stopped, scared and lied.

Because this conviction is not expungable and occurred during the waiting period for other expungable convictions, I cannot get those cleared.

My record has directly affected my income. As my company takes on more government contracts, I can't work those government contracts because of the current expungement laws.

With the scale wage that's paid on these contracts I could make an extra \$20,000 per year. This bill could make a difference in my life, my family's life and people like me. I'm asking for a favorable vote on this bill.