



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

☎ 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461)

✉ mail@mdcrimevictims.org

🌐 mdcrimevictims.org

1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
301-952-0063 (Phone)  
301-952-2319 (fax)

1 North Charles Street, Suite 700  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-234-9885 (phone)

February 27, 2026

RE: UNFAVORABLE TO HOUSE BILL 697

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), I write in opposition to House Bill 824.

HB 824 would amend Criminal Procedure § 10–110 to make individuals convicted under Criminal Law § 5–602(a) eligible for expungement. That statute prohibits both (1) the distribution or dispensing of a controlled dangerous substance and (2) possession of a controlled dangerous substance in quantities that indicate an intent to distribute. These are not low-level or technical offenses. They are serious felony crimes that involve supplying illegal drugs to others or maintaining quantities intended for distribution. **Conduct that directly fuels addiction, overdose deaths, exploitation, and violence in Maryland's communities.**

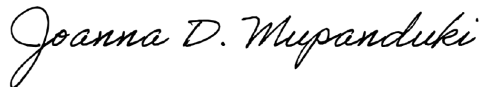
Drug distribution offenses frequently exist at the center of broader criminal activity and often produce identifiable victims, including families devastated by fatal overdoses, individuals coerced into drug use, and communities destabilized by trafficking networks. Allowing expungement of these convictions risks erasing records of conduct that caused profound and lasting harm, undermining both transparency and accountability.

Maryland has already significantly expanded expungement eligibility in recent years, making relief widely available for numerous offenses and providing meaningful opportunities for individuals to move forward after completing their sentences. Before further expanding expungement to include felony drug distribution and possession with intent to distribute, the General Assembly should carefully consider the public safety implications and the impact on victims and the greater community of Maryland citizens who rely on accurate criminal records for their safety, peace of mind, and informed decision-making.

While rehabilitation is an important goal, it must be balanced with the seriousness of the underlying conduct and rehabilitation includes the ability to hold oneself accountable and take responsibility everyday for what they have done. Expanding expungement to cover felony drug distribution offenses diminishes the gravity of crimes that continue to inflict severe harm on individuals, families, and communities across Maryland.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 824.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna D. Mupanduki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joanna D. Mupanduki, Esq.

Deputy Director

Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc.

