

HB 169/SB 525: Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee & Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 169/SB 525** during committee consideration or floor votes.

While second-chance opportunities are valuable for certain low-level, non-violent offenses, **HB 169/SB 525 will erase records for serious crimes—including violent felonies or those involving public trust**—based on discretionary judicial findings rather than strict, objective criteria.

Current Maryland law already provides expungement for non-convictions, certain minor misdemeanors after long waits, pardoned convictions, and specific cases like old cannabis possession—balancing rehabilitation with accountability. Expanding to virtually any conviction via a flexible "good cause" standard will weaken deterrence, reduce transparency in criminal records, and negate community safety and victim considerations. It will also overburden courts with hearings and inconsistent rulings.

Maryland should maintain accountable, limited expungement policies that protect public safety while offering targeted relief—not open the door to widespread record erasure for serious offenses.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote **against HB 169 / SB 525**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this critical public safety and criminal justice matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals