

Dear **Members of the Judiciary Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 45. I am testifying in support of SB483 - the Clean Slate Act.**

In principle, eligibility for criminal-record expungement expanded with the Maryland General Assembly's passage of the Justice Reinvestment and REDEEM Acts. In practice, however, an overwhelming majority of people who could have their charges expunged never petition the courts for expungement. They may be unaware they are eligible, or they may be unable to navigate the process in an overburdened court system. The result is that only a tiny percentage of Marylanders whose convictions are eligible for expungement—less than 10%—actually get their records expunged within 5 years of becoming eligible.¹

SB483 would protect people from the stigma of unexpunged convictions by ensuring that expungeable cases are shielded, or removed from public view, automatically. This ensures that a “clean slate” is available not just in principle, but in practice, for any Marylanders who are eligible. The benefits accrue to all of us.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB483- the Clean Slate Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brytani Fraser
3211 Moravia rd. Baltimore, MD 21214
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



Showing Up for Racial Justice

¹ C. Chien, “America’s Paper Prisons: The Second Chance Gap.” *Mich. L. Rev.*, 119(3).
<https://doi.org/10.36644/mlr.119.3.america> Cited in The Clean Slate Initiative Resource Guide for Maryland Journalists,
<https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/maryland>