

**HB 360/SB 483:** Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026): Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee & Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 360/SB 483**, the Clean Slate Act of 2026, during committee consideration, floor votes, or any further action.

Automatic, broad-scale expungement without individual petitions or judicial review goes too far and undermines public safety, transparency, and accountability.

Automatically erasing records after fixed timelines—regardless of the offense's context, impact on victims, or patterns of behavior—could hide relevant history, increasing risks in hiring or housing, especially in roles involving vulnerable populations, finance, security, or children. Current expungement processes require petitions, waiting periods, and court approval, ensuring careful balancing of rehabilitation with public protection. Automating this process risks errors, overreach, and reduced deterrence for misdemeanor offenses.

Maryland already offers expungement for non-convictions, certain low-level misdemeanors, and other cases through established channels. This bill will potentially erode trust in the justice system and victim rights without sufficient safeguards.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 360/SB 483**.

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

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals