



OUT FOR JUSTICE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 169:

TO: Judiciary

FROM: Colin Willet

DATE: 3/3/2026

I, Colin Willet, support HB169 to file a petition for expungement of any misdemeanor or felony conviction a certain period of time after the completion of the sentence, parole, probation, and any other form of mandatory treatment associated with the conviction.

As a young man, I was wrongfully convicted of credit card theft despite the lack of evidence to support the claim. Following the conviction, I was subsequently sentenced to three years of probation. I have been a law abiding citizen with the exception of one subsequent conviction of a DWI.

Following the DWI offense, I immediately began sobriety and attended weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. In the decades since, I have worked tirelessly to have a simple life with an honest job. But, my record has blocked me from getting any real employment.

Following the passage of SB432 in 2025, my wrongful credit card theft charges are eligible for expungement. This finally would have allowed my record to be cleared and for my life to move forward. However, current Maryland legislation prohibits expungement if there is a subsequent conviction. My records cannot be expunged because of the DWI. This charge occurred over 20 years ago and does not reflect the man that I am today. I would like a chance to live my life as an honest man, able to work a job without scrutiny.

For these reasons and more, we urge a favorable report on House BILL 169.

Thank you, Colin Willet