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## Written testimony for HB 169

1 message

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**william mitchell** <freewillyum@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 9:49 AM

To: Sean.stinnett@house.maryland.gov, AA\_JUD@mga.maryland.gov

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about my experience with expungement.

My name is william mitchell at the age of 23 I was a drug addict who had made many poor choices to support my drug habit period. These choices involve being convicted of crimes. Only one of which was a violent crime, which sent me to prison in 2005.

Since that time i've done everything in my power to become a better man. I have 21 years and counting off of drugs. I zealously work to assist others in my community through their struggles and trials. Im a licensed Peer Recovery Specialist and I work at the university of maryland as the overdose survivor outreach program Peer coach assisting all the drug overdose patients and the Harford and Cecil county area that come into our hospital. I'm also a licensed minister and offer outreach throughout the entire state of maryland and east coast. Point being, i've done everything in my power to become a productive member of society.

I was excited to hear that on October 1, 2025, the language of the expungement law would be changed and go into effect. I immediately filed expungements on all my cases, including my cases for misdemeanor theft, burglary 3rd degree, and misdemeanor drug possession. All of which are from 23 years ago and all of which are crimes that qualify for expungement under the law. Unfortunately, all of these were denied because I have one crime that does not qualify for expungement. Under our current law, if you have one case  
That does not qualify for expungement.  
Your other cases which do qualify cannot be granted expungement.

What is sad is these cases From so many years ago have stopped me. From so many great job opportunities. Certain housing opportunities have been lost because of these convictions. What's funny is the violent crime that bars me from expungement On all these other cases, when I applied for housing that did not disqualify me. It was the drug case it disqualified me a simple misdemeanor possession.

I say all that to make the point.

That the good cause exception should be something that the judge has the authority to utilize when deemed appropriate. Nobody is the same person that they were twenty years ago And I have fought diligently to prove that I'm not that man. Yet, even though i've served my punishment, completed my probations and served my time I'm still punished by having these on my record. I kindly request that you would pass this bill to help people who deserve a true second chance.

Thank for taking the time to consider my testimony. Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

William Mitchell