



March 10, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 1335 – Criminal Procedure – Automatic Expungement

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members:

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I stand in strong support of House Bill 1335 which requires the automatic expungement of records related to charges filed on or after October 1st 2020. The bill also requires the automatic expungement of an invalidated or fugitive warrant under specified circumstances. A person entitled to automatic expungement may opt out of the automatic expungement, as specified, and is entitled to seek redress by means of any appropriate legal remedy against and recover court costs from an entity that fails to expunge a police or court record as required. A criminal record can serve as the cause and consequence of poverty, limiting access to economic and social stability. Criminal records can hinder people attempting to get jobs, find housing, or seek education.

My administration has always and will continue to value justice over convictions. Automatic expungement for individuals as they attempt to rebuild their lives is the embodiment of justice. Justice is what is fair and appropriate. Our office is uncompromisingly committed to accountability, professionalism, and transparency, and is working towards a future where community trust in the criminal justice is restored. This bill will go a long way towards achieving that goal.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB1335.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn J. Mosby".

Marilyn J. Mosby
State's Attorney for Baltimore City