



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0710**  
**Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Modifications**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Patterson

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0710 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill will allow for individuals who have had charges related to an arrest warrant expunged three years after the disposition of the charge. Between the time that the individual requests expungement and the three-year period, the charges will be moved to a separate secured area, which will require special permission for anyone to access and can only be accessed in relation to a proceeding regarding the original arrest or charge.

Persons who have committed a crime of violence, a hate crime, a crime of animal cruelty or a sex crime cannot have those records expunged.

The net result of this will be to allow individuals who have committed minor infractions of the law to have their records expunged so they will be able to gain employment and schooling without their past record impeding them.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.