
Kimberly Haven

January 24, 2023

Chairman Will Smith
Vice Chairman Jeff Waldstreicher
Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee

Senate Bill 123

Department of Planning – Collateral Consequences for Individuals with Criminal Records - Study
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Members of the Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee,

My name is Kimberly Haven, and I am submitting this testimony today on behalf of thousands of Maryland citizens like myself who are living under the shackles of collateral consequences brought about by a criminal conviction.

Coming home from prison was hard enough – finding out the magnitude of the collateral consequences was even harder.

We talk about collateral consequences with ease – we acknowledge that they exist. But we have never really examined what they are, the destructive impact of them, and the physical, moral and economic shackles they present.

When I came home, I was ineligible to vote – thankfully we have moved legislation that ensured my right to vote – however, barriers to employment, doing my civic duty being allowed to serve on a jury, barriers to housing still exist. The list is inexhaustible.

SB 123 would require the Department of Planning to study, report on, and make recommendation relating to certain collateral consequences for individuals such as myself with criminal records. I believe that it is imperative that we get a clear understanding of the full extent of their effects on impacted Maryland citizens.

Senate Bill 123 would be an important contribution toward this important end.