

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of District 8. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 0037. This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with Out for Justice and the Job Opportunities Task Force.



I am a volunteer with local organizations that provide basic necessities to our neighbors, including hot meals, clothing, and infant diapers. It is clear that many Marylanders today struggle to meet their basic needs, often because of barriers erected by our systems. One of these barriers is the very long waiting period for expungement of nonviolent offenses. Nonviolent misdemeanors, such as public urination, sleeping on a park bench, or riding public transit without a fare, are frequently the result of poverty or homelessness. Expunging records after completion of sentencing would prevent these small violations from holding someone back who is looking for a job or applying for housing. It would help to break one link in the cycle of poverty so that progress is more accessible for those seeking education, a job, or an occupational license.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of Senate Bill 0037**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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