

Testimony in Support of H5441

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am here today to express my strong support for both H5441. This bill aims to reduce the time required for the expungement of criminal records related to misdemeanors and felonies. These legislative initiatives represent a crucial step towards fostering a more equitable justice system that recognizes the importance of rehabilitation and second chances.

The ability to expunge a criminal record is not just a legal formality; it is a pathway to reintegration into society for countless individuals who have made mistakes in their past. By allowing for the expungement of records after just three years for misdemeanors and five years for felonies, these bills will enable individuals to move forward with their lives without the persistent stigma of past offenses. This change will improve their chances of securing employment, housing, and education, ultimately benefiting our communities by reducing recidivism and promoting responsible citizenship.

Lets takes look at the first circuit court in Massachusetts currently individuals have waiting periods of 3 to 7 years. In New Hampshire the waiting period mimics this current legislation of three and five years.

Furthermore, these bills send a powerful message that our justice system believes in the potential for redemption. They acknowledge that people can learn from their mistakes and contribute positively to society when given the opportunity. Supporting H5441 means standing up for fairness, compassion, and the belief that everyone deserves a second chance. I urge this committee to pass these bills and help create a more inclusive and just community for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.