



**City of Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**ROSALYNN C. BLISS**  
MAYOR

September 23, 2019

The Honorable Representative Graham Filler, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Filler;

I am writing to express support for the bi-partisan Expungement Reform package that has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. House Bills 4980-4985 will reform the expungement process for setting aside convictions and allow individuals to get back on their feet, rise above their past and be a meaningful and productive member of our City and State.

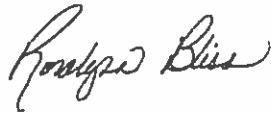
This package will provide critically needed reform to the expungement process and the following are some highlights of the proposed changes:

1. Allow automatic expungement and criminal convictions to be set aside for certain crimes without filing an application after a period of 10 years as described;
2. A process for setting aside traffic offenses (this does not include DUI-related convictions or reckless driving causing serious injury or death) as no traffic offense is currently eligible for expungement;
3. Allow for misdemeanor marijuana convictions that would no longer be considered illegal to be set aside;
4. Expand eligibility for setting aside felony and misdemeanor convictions to those with no more than three felonies so long as none of the convictions are for an assaultive crime; and
5. Allow individuals with multiple convictions stemming from the same incident to have those convictions treated as a single felony for purposes of applying for expungement.

The current expungement process can be expensive and difficult to navigate, resulting in only 6.5% of eligible individuals attempting to have their record expunged. These reforms will provide many with opportunities for education, employment and housing, and positively impact residents and businesses in Grand Rapids.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and I hope you will support House Bills 4980-4985 to reform the expungement process. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosalynn Bliss".

Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor  
City of Grand Rapids

C:/ Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Senator Winnie Brinks  
The Honorable Representative Rachel Hood