

Honorable Kevin Bacon
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Bacon:

As someone entrusted to preserve the public record, and who cares deeply about the people I have served for 42 years, I fully endorse greater protections for people who suffer the consequences of inaccurate information on the internet.

Because of open records laws, the City Law Department has determined that we cannot deny private companies access to our criminal data base. So we are in a position of passing on to companies hundreds of thousands of criminal records. Those records reflect the status of cases on a specific date.

However, case status can change over time. If any case is sealed, or if some adjustment is made in the record at our office, those changes are not reflected in the record previously sent to a company.

We have had citizens blame our office for inaccurate criminal information that they found about themselves on the internet, even though our record remains accurate.

Those desperate to remove erroneous personal information could be vulnerable to companies that offer to remove information about them for a charge.

If House Bill 6 can reduce or eliminate the spread of inaccurate information, I welcome the protection it could provide for my office and the citizens we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earle B. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Earle B. Turner
Clerk of Court
Cleveland Municipal Court
Justice Center – Level 2
1200 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113