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Representative Grad  
Judiciary Committee  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Representative Grad,

My name is James Matthew Worrall and am pastor of Grace Christian Fellowship in Winchester, NH. I and have been married for 42 years to my wife and best friend, Kathy. I have been in the ministry for 30 years, ordained in 1987. When I was young, I was arrested for felony sales of a controlled drug, LSD, in January, 1970 and convicted in February, 1971 in the state of Vermont. Prior to and upon conviction I did time in Woodstock and St. Albans correctional centers, 6 months in a drug rehabilitation center in Burlington, VT and served 2 years of probation. After that I worked steadily at factories and construction. I went to Bible School in 1984-85 and came back and served a 2 year internship resulting in ordination in 1987. Since then I have served in the ministry both full time and bi-vocational.

Last year, 45 years after that conviction, I applied for expungement in the Brattleboro courts and was denied. The reason given was that conviction did not fall under the guidelines for expungement. I believe that a crime committed by a young person who has lived a productive life since then should not have a conviction done as a very young person follow them for the rest of their life. It saddens me that a mistake I did as a teenager still effects my life as a 63 year old man. I am willing to come to Montpelier to speak to the judiciary committee and give testimony as to why I believe the expungement laws should be changed to give one's like me a chance to be free once and for all from mistakes done when one was a mixed up kid.

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

Sincerely,

James Matthew Worrall