



**1 in 3 adults have some form of a criminal record**

**9 in 10 employers**

**9 in 10 landlords**

**3 in 4 colleges**

**utilize background checks to screen applicants**

**That's over 70 million Americans facing significant barriers to opportunity**



# **Bipartisan Bicameral Federal Clean Slate Legislation**

## **Clean Slate Act**

- This bipartisan second-chance bill establishes automatic record sealing for arrests that do not result in a conviction, simple possession of a controlled substance, and low-level, nonviolent marijuana offenses. It also creates a petition process for sealing nonviolent offenses. Notably, these records would still be accessible to law enforcement and the courts.

## **Fresh Start Act**

- Currently, 13 states and the District of Columbia have automatic record-sealing laws in place. However, states may need federal support to develop the infrastructure required to implement these systems. This bill uses an existing funding stream to provide grants to states to automate and update their record-sealing processes.

## **Promoting Public Safety and a Strong Economy**

## **Lower Recidivism and Better Workforce Participation**

- Stable employment is one of the strongest predictors of reduced re-offending. Giving people a fair shot at work improves public safety while strengthening local economies. People who can secure stable employment and housing are far less likely to cycle through the legal system again, reducing prison costs and improving public safety.
- A minor record can automatically disqualify a person from jobs and occupational licensing, creating a cycle of unemployment and underemployment that depresses economic output at both the personal and national levels. With the United States facing a shrinking labor supply, record sealing will provide a pathway for 70 – 100 million Americans to re-enter the workforce.

## **Improved Economic Outcomes for People and Their Families**

- 64% of unemployed men at age 35 have criminal records, and employers are 60% more likely to call back job applicants without a record—even a minor one.
- People who benefit from record sealing see a 25% increase in wages within two years.
- Sealing records removes automatic hiring disqualifiers, allowing employers to access job-ready candidates they would otherwise overlook.

**For more information about this legislation,  
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