Second chance legislation means more opportunity, better outcomes, and safer communities for us all.

It's time for Congress to get the message.



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

That's over
70 million Americans
with significant
barriers to
opportunity.

Join the movement to increase opportunities for people with criminal records.

Support Bipartisan Federal Second Chance Legislation

Clean Slate Act, H.R. 2930

This bill provides automatic record sealing for individuals convicted of simple
possession of a controlled substance, any federal nonviolent offense involving
marijuana, or an arrest for an offense that does not result in a conviction.
Additionally, people who meet certain other criteria may petition to seal
records for other nonviolent offenses.

Fresh Start Act, H.R. 2983

• This bill authorizes state grant funding to help states implement their existing automatic record-sealing and expungement laws.

Why These Policies Work

They effectively reduce recidivism.

A study in Michigan on individuals who benefitted from record-sealing legislation found that only 7.1% were rearrested within five years and only 4.2% were reconvicted. The figures for violent crimes are even lower, with only 2.6% of expungement recipients rearrested for violent offenses and only 0.6% convicted of a violent crime. These numbers are significantly lower than the arrest and conviction rates for Michigan's general population.

They improve economic outcomes for individuals.

- 64% of unemployed men at age 35 have criminal records.
- Employers are 60% more likely to call back job applicants without criminal records, even if the offense was a minor one.
- People who benefit from record-sealing and expungement see a 25% increase in wages within two years.

