



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN BERNSKOETTER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2822	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 101 EAST HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: brianb@swllc.us.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 5:40 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 10:01 AM

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Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID BOWSER		PHONE NUMBER: 202-297-8817	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FAITH & FREEDOM COALITION		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 404A SOUTH CAPITOL STREET, SE			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20003
EMAIL: dbowser@ffcoalition.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 10:50 PM	
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Testimony Missouri State House of Representatives General Laws Committee Public Hearing on HB 2108 and HB 2555, Clean Slate Testimony by David Bowser, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Faith & Freedom Coalition March 26, 2024 Thank you, members of the General Laws Committee, for the opportunity to provide electronic testimony today. My name is David Bowser and I am Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for the Faith & Freedom Coalition. On behalf of our 2.5 million members and supporters nationwide, thank you for considering HB 2108 offered by Representative Christofanelli and HB 2555 offered by Representative Hicks, we urge you to quickly and favorably report them out of the General Laws Committee for consideration by the full House. This legislation will reduce recidivism, increase employment, strengthen families and communities, and provide a pathway to redemption for those who want to reform their lives. No one would deny that crime should be punished; but punishment should not continue in perpetuity. Those who have paid their debt to society for low-level or non-violent offenses and who have reformed their lives deserve to be given a second chance and fully welcomed back into society. Rehabilitation is the goal of the criminal justice system. We want offenders to pay their debts and to amend their lives. Those who do, should be rewarded, and restored to society—for their good, their families’ benefit, and for the betterment of our communities. Collectively, these bills would provide a pathway for those convicted of lower-level offenses, who have served their full sentences, returned to society, remained crime-free, and are eligible for electronic expungement receive this life changing opportunity automatically. The opportunities Clean Slate provides to encourage returning citizens to live a crime-free life have been successful in the states where it has already been implemented, including the original effort in Pennsylvania (2018) and its expansion (2023), as well as Utah (2019), Michigan (2020), Oklahoma (2022), and Colorado (2022) among others. We expect this number to continue to grow in the next few years and would urge Missouri to be next on this list. The practical, real-world benefits of Clean Slate are well documented as expungement of electronic records for lower-level offenders provide for: • Increase in the workforce, including many skilled workers. • Employment opportunities with better wages and benefits. • Stronger credit ratings. • Better and safer housing options. • More stable families and safer communities. • Significant incentives to remain crime-free. While these benefits are substantive, HB 2108 and HB 2555 ensures these efforts remain targeted to the penalties and timeframes that research has demonstrated to be safe and effective. Drug trafficking, serious violent, sexual, and gun-related crimes are excluded from automated sealing and law enforcement can still see the sealed records. HB 2108 and HB 2555 are carefully drafted to target those persons who have demonstrated over a long period of time that they are crime-free. The goal is to help them attain employment, strengthen credit ratings, and secure housing. Nearly one in three Americans now have

some type of criminal record, which reduces their chances of getting a callback or job offer by nearly 50 percent and makes it much harder to find housing. This is at a time when the Bureau of Labor Statistics nonfarm payrolls report consistently low unemployment rates and that businesses, especially small and family-owned businesses, are having a difficult time filling job openings. This is reflected by the eight Missouri Chambers of Commerce, MOKAN (Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas Economic Development Association), the Small Business Majority, and the numerous employers across Missouri who have all come out in support of this legislation. Providing individuals with a second chance at redemption—and an opportunity to earn an honest living and provide for their families—is core to our values. This is why we urge you to quickly and favorably report HB 2108 and HB 2555 out of this committee to the full House. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your thoughtful consideration. CONTACT: David Bowser Faith & Freedom Coalition dbowser@ffcoalition.com / 202-297-8817



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WEISS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE: MISSOURI APPLESEED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 100 N TUCKER BLVD, ROOM 840			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: lweiss@appleseednetwork.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 1:52 PM	
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Missouri Appleseed submits this written testimony in support of Rep Christofanelli’s HB 2108 and Rep Hicks’ HB 2555, the Clean Slate Bills. Missouri Appleseed believes all Missouri families deserve the opportunity to thrive. The Clean Slate Bills align with Missouri Appleseed’s mission. Currently, Missouri law allows for persons with a criminal record to apply for expungement, with exceptions carved out for certain crimes which cannot be expunged. However, the vast majority of those eligible for expungement cannot utilize this right due to the disproportionate economic burden associated with the expungement process. Specifically, only those who can afford the expungement process are able to access this statutory right, while those who cannot afford it are not able to have their eligible record expunged. The Clean Slate bills create an automated process for expungement giving all who are eligible access to the right to have their criminal record expunged. In addition, the Clean Slate bills will help put an end to the cycle of poverty which results from the barriers that Missourians with a criminal record face upon reentering society. Expungement creates better employment opportunities, affordable housing options, and more opportunities for education that lead to better life outcomes for those directly impacted, as well as their children and families. Moreover, it can boost the economy, having a positive impact of an estimated \$2.9 billion in annual economic activity and \$131 million in general revenue, due to the increase in employment and access to jobs with higher wages. Increasing access to expungement through automating the process will also lower recidivism rates. Access to housing, employment, and education will reduce recidivism and increase public safety. Missouri Appleseed respectfully requests the Missouri House General Laws Committee vote due pass on both HB 2108 and HB 2555.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANCIE MARION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GROVER NORQUIST		PHONE NUMBER: 202-785-0266	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 722 12TH ST. NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20005
EMAIL: ggn@atr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:07 PM	

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March 26, 2024
 To: Missouri House Committee on General Laws
 From: Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform
 Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2108, HB 2555, "Clean Slate" Chair Riley, Vice Chair Hicks, Ranking Member Ingle, and Members of the Committee, My name is Grover Norquist, I am President of Americans for Tax Reform. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2108 and House Bill 2555, "Clean Slate" legislation. When someone commits a crime, priority one for government should be apprehending them and ensuring they are brought to justice and pay for that crime. Once they have fulfilled their sentence, there should not be endless consequences for those that do not offend again. Unfortunately, with a confusing, costly, and complicated system for expungement and record sealing, even those former offenders who prove they can stay on the straight-and-narrow over a long period of years will pay through collateral consequences far beyond those they have been duly sentenced to. For conservatives working on criminal justice issues, public safety must come first. Under Clean Slate anyone who reoffends is not eligible for automated expungement. The government would keep records that would no longer be publicly available, which could be used in court proceedings in the rare event someone did reoffend after expungement. A limited number of offenses could be expunged from their records. Justice Department figures show that re-arrest for former nonviolent offenders is rare five or more years after release. A study found the vast majority (82%) of those arrested during a nine year period were arrested during the first three years. This policy, when done responsibly, is a proven success. Pennsylvania and Utah were the first two states to set the model for responsible automated record sealing and expungement. Since passage, over 1.2 million Pennsylvanians have had a record sealed, and it is estimated over 400,000 records will be expunged in Utah. More states have joined them and implemented good Clean Slate policies, like Oklahoma. 10 total states have enacted a version of Clean Slate. Incentivizing a path of working and contributing to the community can improve public safety. A good job helps reduce the risk of recidivism. The economy will also benefit as law-abiding former offenders are able to take on new jobs and grow a career. A study from University of Michigan law school researchers found people's wages went up by 20% on average one year after expunging their record. With 100 job openings per every 53 available workers, Missouri continues to face a significant workforce shortage. Healthcare has been particularly impacted. Clean Slate offers the opportunity to get law-abiding potential workers into new jobs to help address the shortage. Clean Slate offers someone the chance to pursue a hard-earned second chance. Nothing is given away. For these reasons, ATR urges you to support this important legislation. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELYN HUEBBE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-680-8004	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SUGAR BOT SWEET SHOP & CREAMERY		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 433 JACKSON ST.			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63301
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-289-4303	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD, INC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-323-0915	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI APPLESEED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5380 MAGNOLIA			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63139
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY CADY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-799-3277
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE: STATE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 94		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: jcady@afphq.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2024 3:10 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA STEFFAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jessie.steffan@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:50 PM
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As a lifelong Missouri voter and taxpayer, I support this bill, which will streamline the expungement process and ensure more Missourians who have served their time are able to care for their families and work productively toward making our state better.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jacampbell314@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 11:27 AM
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I strongly urge the General Laws Committee members to support HB 2108 regarding expungement (sealing) of minor convictions for thousands of Missourians. Give these Missourians a "clean slate" so they may find it easier to obtain employment and housing. Many individuals (past offenders) can not afford an attorney. Please vote YES on HB 2108. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KARA CORCHES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 420 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN COULSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kecoulson715@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2024 1:22 PM
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Clean Slate makes communities safer by reducing recidivism. It provides more employees since applicants will no longer have to "check the box". Most importantly, it keeps families together by removing obstacles to housing.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE HILDEBRAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: katieleehildebrand@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2024 1:06 PM
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Folks who are struggling to get good jobs and good housing just because they don't have the resources to get their records expunged deserve a real second chance at life. Many of these folks have children and families, who also have to suffer and aren't given a fair chance at life. We can easily address this by passing this legislation -- please support this bill!



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KAY MILLS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: SPRINGFIELD	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL: kay@mojwj.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 3:34 PM

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Missouri Jobs with Justice Voter Action is a statewide organization committed to building an economy and a democracy that works for all of us. We work with faith leaders, students, union members, and everyday Missourians—Black, Brown, and White—to build a state where we can all thrive. We work to build workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities where each of us has what we need for a safe and healthy life, from cradle to grave. As an organization committed to economic security, Clean Slate legislation (HB2108 and HB2555) makes sense, and we urge the passage of this bill. Everyone should have an opportunity to work, have a safe home, take care of their families, and contribute to their community. Today, more than 1.9 million Missourians from all walks of life face barriers to jobs, education, housing, and other basic necessities because they have an arrest or conviction on their record. These challenges impact every part of a person's life. When our loved ones, friends, neighbors, and community members are barred from fully participating in society and our economy, we all lose out. Criminal records should not be a life sentence. Current Missouri law recognizes that by allowing the expungement process. However, the current process is cumbersome and expensive, meaning only the richest and most connected of our neighbors are able to access expungement. Fewer than 1% of eligible people are able to access expungement, despite its life-changing potential. No matter what we look like or where we are from, our needs are similar - we are all looking for a job that allows us to support our families. These bills would give about 500,000 Missourians a chance at that as well. Please consider and pass this Clean Slate legislation to give all workers a fair chance to reach their full potential.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DEN HOLLANDER		PHONE NUMBER: 202-853-0707	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHRISTIAN COALITION		TITLE: NATIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 8730 NORTH PARK BLVD, SUITE 1D			
CITY: CHARLESTON		STATE: SC	ZIP: 29406
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 8:56 PM

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I urge you to support HB2108 (Christofanelli) and HB2555 (Hicks), which offer Clean Slates to our neighbors with criminal records who are eligible for expungement but are unable to access it. Automating the record clearing process is good for our community and our neighbors. Our communities thrive when people have access to basic human needs, and a past record should not prevent our neighbors from accessing housing, better paying jobs, recreation, and volunteer opportunities. Criminal records should not be a life sentence. Current Missouri law recognizes that by allowing the expungement process for up to three misdemeanors and a felony. However, we understand that the current petition based process is cumbersome and expensive, meaning only the richest and most connected of our neighbors are able to access expungement. Fewer than 1% of eligible people are able to access expungement, despite its life changing potential. Missouri is a state which values hard work and growth. Records keep folks trapped in their past bad choices, instead of celebrating change. Automating record clearing levels the playing field, allowing people to move on from mistakes. People with cleared records are less likely to commit another crime, helping to keep our neighborhoods safer. With over 1.9 million adults with records in Missouri, the time is now to clear as many records as possible. Our communities struggle to fill jobs. A person with a past criminal record may be the perfect candidate, but unable to access this job because of a past charge. Within one year of record clearing, people are 11% more likely to be employed and earn an average of 22% higher wages. Our friends, family members, and neighbors deserve a true second chance through automated record clearance. We urge the Missouri state Legislature to pass legislation to implement record clearance in Missouri as soon as possible. We have waited long enough.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 9:10 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE SCHLOSSER		PHONE NUMBER: 913-461-8724	
REPRESENTING: THE BUILDERS - A CHAPTER OF AGC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1521 PEPPERWOOD DRIVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: lyneschlosser@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 2:20 PM	

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Testimony in support of Clean Slate Missouri Prepared for Allen Dillingham Director of Government Affairs, The Builders - a chapter of the AGC Dear Chairman Riley and Members of the House General Laws Committee e,I write to you on behalf of The Builders, a chapter of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), in support of HB 2108/HB 2555 (Clean Slate Missouri), legislation that would widen the talent pool and strengthen our workforce.Founded in 1887, The Builders is one of the nation’s largest chapters of the AGC, serving member companies throughout the heartland and with four service and training centers across the state. We believe in improving lives through construction. Our work aims to advance the construction industry by delivering safety, craft, and management training; employment, labor and government relations; and construction plans and technology tools. To do that, our member companies need access to top talent. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Missouri’s workforce shortage is one of the worst in the country with only 53 available workers for every 100 open jobs. While the construction industry is strong, we are not immune to these workforce challenges. Overwhelmingly, our members from across the state have expressed difficulties in attracting and retaining talent. It’s abundantly clear that we need to work to expand the available talent pool. Clean Slate will do just that. One in three Americans has some type of a criminal record that can significantly impact their ability to find employment. In Missouri, nearly two million people face these barriers. Unfortunately, the current petition-based process that allows people to clear certain old criminal records is extremely difficult to navigate. As a result, only one percent of Missourians ever actually receive the relief they’re owed.Automating this process would reduce the government’s workload, but would also have an immediate impact on our workforce. When people have their record cleared, their wages increase by an average of 22% within one year – which means more money into our businesses, our communities, and our economy. These individuals are also 11% more likely to be employed, contributing to a strong and diverse talent pool that our employers can benefit from. On the whole, Clean Slate would generate \$2.9 billion in economic activity annually, allowing the Show-Me State to continue to prosper. Our businesses need these workers – and our neighbors deserve a real second chance. The benefits of automatic expungement are clear. Clean Slate will help bolster the Missouri workforce, strengthen our economy, and make our state a more prosperous place to live and work. I thank the sponsors of this important legislation and urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate Missouri.Allen Dillingham Director of Government Affairs, The Builders - a chapter of the AGG



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIETA ORTIZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 4:01 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY SCHUMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-721-2384	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 7006 MARYLAND AVE			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: DiemCarp@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2024 3:32 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

March 21, 2024 To: Chairman Riley and Members, House General Laws Committee Re: HB 2108 and HB 2555 Honorable Chair and Members of the General Laws Committee: We are testifying on behalf of Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice in support of House Bills 2108 and 2555, often referred to as Clean Slate legislation. Women's Voices, founded in 2005, is a nonpartisan organization of more than 400 St. Louis area members with 2000 social media subscribers. Our mission is two-fold: education on a wide variety of issues through free public programs, and advocacy through our members and subscribers engaging in rallies, letter writing, volunteering, and testifying. Our interest in Clean Slate initiatives began three years ago when we hosted a program that focused on reentry services for formerly incarcerated people in the St. Louis area. It was eye-opening to learn of the multiple obstacles because of a criminal record, no matter how minor, that face people returning to our communities. We listened to the life-stories of people who have struggled and even succeeded, but who still carry the heavy baggage of criminal records. Simply put, people continue to pay for the same crime over and over, rather than being able to move on, enhance their lives, and contribute to society. We asked ourselves where is the balance between punishment and ruining lives? And if Missouri's statutes have provisions for expunging certain criminal records, why weren't more people seeking and receiving relief? We subsequently learned that 98-99% of those eligible for expungement are unable to navigate the current petition process, leaving half a million Missourians with criminal records that the law already says can be expunged. This is neither fair to individuals and their families, nor desirable for our communities. Continuing to effectively bar ex-offenders from employment and housing makes zero sense and is a recipe for recidivism. According to the Missouri DOC, 69% of those who are unable to find full-time employment return to prison within two years, making communities less safe and costing taxpayers for reincarceration. We researched national and state Clean Slate initiatives and later joined the Missouri Clean Slate Campaign as a partnering organization. Since 2018 twelve states, recognizing that 25% to 40% of their adult populations were similarly hindered by criminal records, have enacted Clean Slate legislation with wide bipartisan support. Pennsylvania, the first state to adopt automated expungement, has expanded expungement eligibility two times after having already sealed the records of 1.2 million people. In Philadelphia more than 1,000 formerly incarcerated people who had their records expunged through gubernatorial pardons were followed for a decade by two studies, one on recidivism and the other on economic benefits. The studies**, published in 2020, revealed an extremely low (1%) rate of recidivism and impressive economic benefits to individuals and neighborhoods. They concluded that increasing expungements could provide a no-cost economic investment across the state, especially in areas most in need of growth, and that there were no public safety concerns. We are grateful to Representatives Christofanelli and Hicks for introducing House Bills 2108 and 2555. We firmly believe Clean Slate legislation is smart on crime, makes good business sense, and will boost

local and state economies for the following reasons:• Many of the half million eligible individuals will have the opportunity to earn a decent living, obtain stable housing, and provide for their families. • Employers will be able to expand their workforce with qualified people eager and able to work. • Missouri will save taxpayer dollars by bringing more people into the workforce and interrupting the cycle of recidivism and reincarceration. The stigma of a criminal record is a major driver of poverty, which in turn is the strongest predictor for recidivism and the cycle of reincarceration. • Communities will be safer due to lower recidivism rates as more people are able to move on with their lives and provide for their families. • Missouri's courts and prosecutors' offices will no longer be burdened with the costs of record-clearing petitions, saving taxpayer dollars. A criminal record should not be a life sentence to poverty. We firmly believe it is in our community's best interest to have healthy, self-sufficient individuals and families who, with obstacles removed, are more likely to engage in their neighborhoods, seek more education, volunteer at their children's schools, and pay taxes. We add our voices to those who believe a Clean Slate Act will provide both help and hope to the half-million Missourians who are currently eligible for record expungement. It is also the right and fair thing to do. We thank you for your time and request your support on House Bills 2108 and 2555. Respectfully, Mary Schuman and Susan Glassman, Co-Chairs, Criminal Legal System Reform Task Force Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice 698 Lockwood Ave Webster Groves, MO 63119 314-730-0471 <https://womensvoicesraised.org> Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, "Pardons as an Economic Investment Strategy: Evaluating a Decade of Data in Pennsylvania" (2020) <https://www.economyleague.org/resources/pardons-economic-development-strategy#:~:text=The%20Economy%20League's%20comprehensive%20report,investment%20strategy%20that%20costs%20nothing> Ryan Allen Hancock and Carl Oxholm III, "Pardons and Public Safety: Examining a Decade of Recidivism Data in Pennsylvania" (Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, 2020) <https://plsephilly.org/pardon-recidivism-study/>



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT MORROW		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: tmercado@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2024 10:48 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Chairman Riley and Members of the Senate Committee on General Laws: On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 2108, sponsored by Rep. Christofanelli, and House Bill 2555, sponsored by Rep. Hicks. These bills would establish a process for automatic expungement of certain criminal histories, ensuring a common-sense solution to give the business community access to a strong talent pipeline, supporting the state's economic future. Approximately 1.9 million Missourians have some form of a criminal record. This can present unnecessary barriers to employment, housing, education, occupational licensing, and other services. These obstacles persist long after someone has served their time, contributing to Long-standing workforce barriers. While tens of thousands of Missourians are currently eligible to have their records cleared, the existing petition-based system is costly, complex, and time-consuming; less than one percent will actually complete the process. In practice, that means that thousands of our neighbors are being denied the relief – and the economic opportunities – they deserve. For individuals with records, the impact of automatic record clearance could increase wages by more than 20 percent within one year alone and increase an individual's likelihood of finding employment to begin with. That becomes critical at a moment when businesses across our great state are struggling. With unemployment rates already at historic lows, and only 53 available workers for every 100 open jobs, we need to expand the talent pool for our employers. Experts also estimate that the U.S. economy loses as much as \$87 billion in GDP per year due to the underemployment of formerly incarcerated people. Clean Slate would ease the burden for companies that are desperately trying to hire by allowing them to recruit from a new and underutilized pool of talent. In turn, this will strengthen both the economy and the labor market. Thank you for your consideration of these impactful proposals and we encourage your support of House Bills 2108 and 2555. Sincerely, Matt Morrow President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce 202 S John Q Hammons Parkway Springfield, MO 65806



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 8:55 PM

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I urge you to support HB2108 (Christofanelli) and HB2555 (Hicks), which offer Clean Slates to our neighbors with criminal records who are eligible for expungement but are unable to access it. Automating the record clearing process is good for our community and our neighbors. Our communities thrive when people have access to basic human needs, and a past record should not prevent our neighbors from accessing housing, better paying jobs, recreation, and volunteer opportunities. Criminal records should not be a life sentence. Current Missouri law recognizes that by allowing the expungement process for up to three misdemeanors and a felony. However, we understand that the current petition based process is cumbersome and expensive, meaning only the richest and most connected of our neighbors are able to access expungement. Fewer than 1% of eligible people are able to access expungement, despite its life changing potential. Missouri is a state which values hard work and growth. Records keep folks trapped in their past bad choices, instead of celebrating change. Automating record clearing levels the playing field, allowing people to move on from mistakes. People with cleared records are less likely to commit another crime, helping to keep our neighborhoods safer. With over 1.9 million adults with records in Missouri, the time is now to clear as many records as possible. Our communities struggle to fill jobs. A person with a past criminal record may be the perfect candidate, but unable to access this job because of a past charge. Within one year of record clearing, people are 11% more likely to be employed and earn an average of 22% higher wages. Our friends, family members, and neighbors deserve a true second chance through automated record clearance. We urge the Missouri state Legislature to pass legislation to implement record clearance in Missouri as soon as possible. We have waited long enough.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-814-2910	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 6845 CREST AVE.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MILEA CARBELLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mileacarbello48@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2024 7:48 PM

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Why should a person continue to suffer after already suffering the consequences of their actions? This is something I often think to myself. I am a 27 year old female that lives in Springfield, Mo, and the amount of suffering I've faced since being charged with a violation of a restraining order charge (in which my very ill mother placed on me in 2015) (class d felony) feels extremely insurmountable. I feel hopeless, I try to succeed over and over again and still end up with the same unfortunate results. I know that I am super qualified for all the positions I apply for at certain companies. Nevertheless, I am somehow always not chosen for the position. As well as I've been homeless numerous amounts of times for applying at several property management companies yet I was denied for being a felon. I recently tried to start driving for door dash and I was even denied by them due to my felony. My point here today is that it is not right for an individual to succumb all of this suffering and hopelessness when they were already punished by serving the time for their crime/crimes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY DESLOGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: nancy.desloge@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 9:15 AM
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This measure would simplify the expungement process by making it automatic, which ultimately could positively impact the lives of thousands of Missourians who have served time for their crimes and are trying to get their lives back together.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NOAH BEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 202-805-0994	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA PENER		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: DREAM.ORG		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: olivia@jonesadvocacy.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 3:44 PM
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Dream.org would like to go on record in support of these bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: OLIVIA PENER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-375-5705
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: olivia@jonesadvocacy.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 3:47 PM
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The Missouri State Conference of the NAACP would like to go on record in support of this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK BENSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA BLACKLOCK-LUDY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-298-6181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: POWERHOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 601 BUS LOOP 70 WEST SUITE 204			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REV. DARRYL GRAY		PHONE NUMBER: 770-842-5210	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR -SOCIAL JUSTICE	
ADDRESS: 5083 WATERMAN BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROCHELLE ANN KASKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rakasko@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 3:57 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing to ask that you support Clean Slate legislation that is now before this committee. Most of us can think of a time when we did something that we don't feel proud of, and we know how important it is to be given a second chance in life. For example, my brother-in-law tells a story of how some high school classmates accidentally set a marsh on fire. Though the authorities found out, law enforcement saw fit to give them grace rather than to prosecute. How different their lives may have been had they not had this second chance! With this second chance in mind, the Missouri legislature previously passed laws allowing individuals to petition to seal the records of certain misdemeanors and non-violent felonies some time after they serve their sentence and pay any related penalties. Many employers, landlords, and colleges use criminal background checks to screen applicants. Ideally, the records of these convictions – and of arrests -- would no longer be public, and, in turn, they would not be used to deny Missourians that second chance, keeping them from getting a job, a place to live, or further schooling. But over the years only a very few of those intended to benefit from the petition process – about 1% -- have been able to access those benefits. The process is complicated and confusing, and many of the intended beneficiaries lack the funds for court costs or an attorney. But there is a remedy. Through Clean Slate bills currently before this committee, the promise to remove public records of these convictions and arrests will finally be fulfilled automatically. And once those records are sealed, those with convictions and arrests, as well as their families, will benefit. And the legislation will benefit the State as a whole when Missourians are given the opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to the community. Recognizing how the community benefits from Clean Slate legislation, a range of organizations, including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, have expressed their support. I strongly urge you to support Clean Slate legislation and vote it out of committee with a "Do Pass" designation. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this legislation that provides Missourians with a second chance, rather than a lifetime of punishment long after they have served their sentence. Sincerely, Rochelle Kaskowitz University City, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-669-3425	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST., #1130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2024 7:46 PM	

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On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and our approximately 15,000 members statewide, I would like to express our strong support for HB 2108 and HB 2555. By automating the expungement process for eligible criminal records, these bills will support positive reentry to community life and substantially benefit both Missouri's families and economy. The lasting impacts of a criminal record extend far beyond time served and enact numerous barriers to housing, education, and employment opportunities. These barriers hamper the ability to fully participate in society and build stability throughout the course of one's life. Due to the time and cost burdens of the current process, many Missourians are unable to achieve record expungement despite their eligibility. HB 2108 and HB 2555 seek to correct this and ensure that all eligible Missourians receive the second chance they deserve. For these reasons, and to support the dignity of all Missourians, the ACLU of Missouri urges you to vote yes on HB 2108 and HB 2555.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT & ALLY SVENSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MOD PIZZA		TITLE: CO-FOUNDERS
ADDRESS:		
CITY: BELLEVUE	STATE: WA	ZIP: 02035
EMAIL: madeline.Bunce@modpizza.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2024 8:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

March 25, 2024Re: HB 2108/HB 2555 and SB 1161/SB 763: Acts that create provisions relating to expungementDear Chairman Luetkemeyer and Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence,I write to you in strong support of HB 2108/HB 2555 and SB 1161/SB 763 (Clean Slate Missouri). This common-sense legislation is good for businesses, good for families, and good for communities. It is essential to strengthen Missouri’s economy and create a brighter future.In 2008, MOD Pizza launched with the belief that companies can and should be a force for good in the lives of those they employ and the communities they serve. From the start, MOD has been committed to breaking down barriers and providing meaningful second chance employment to those who had been intentionally overlooked and underserved. At MOD, we believe your future potential defines you, not your past.In the last sixteen years, MOD has expanded from one restaurant in the state of Washington to more than 500 locations across the country, including 16 in Missouri. From the start, we made a commitment to hiring individuals with barriers to employment, including those who are justice-impacted. It paid off. Overwhelmingly, these team members have exemplified exactly the qualities employers hope to see in all their employees – loyalty, productivity, and resilience.That’s a sentiment shared by second chance hirers across the country – and it couldn’t be more timely. The food service industry is just one of the many still facing an unprecedented labor shortage. Missouri employers are struggling to fill more than 167,000 open jobs. Why, then, are hundreds of thousands justice-impacted individuals being kept out of the labor market – just because of an old criminal record? The unemployment rate for individuals with criminal records is 27% – higher than the U.S. unemployment rate at any time in history. Many of these individuals could have their records cleared today, but the steps required are onerous and time-consuming. As a result, less than five percent of those eligible will ever actually receive the relief they are owed.HB 2108/HB 2555 and SB 1161/SB 763 are a solution. Clean Slate would automate and streamline Missouri’s existing record clearing process. This will both reduce the government’s workload and expedite the relief process. Through Clean Slate, Missouri will help hardworking Missourians move forward, enter the workforce, and contribute to their communities.The benefits would be both immediate and far-reaching. In states that have enacted similar legislation, people who had their records cleared experienced 22% wage growth and were 11% more likely to be employed than their peers within just one year. Higher wages and more employed workers mean more money into our businesses, our communities, and our economy. Altogether, the U.S. loses an estimated \$87 billion in GDP due to the underemployment of formerly incarcerated people. Clean Slate will save taxpayer dollars and make Missouri more prosperous.At MOD, we know both how valuable justice-impacted employees can be for business and how much work it can be to follow through on the conscious business practice to hire individuals with criminal records. We can do so much to support employers – especially Missouri’s small businesses – who are hard-pressed to

invest the time and effort needed. That support begins with Clean Slate. By clearing old records, Missouri will open up a vast, diverse, and productive pool of talent for those employers, and businesses across the state. This, in turn, will reduce recidivism, making all our communities safer. By passing Clean Slate, we can create real second chances – strengthening our state in the process. We measure our purpose by the positive social impact we can make, together. Clean Slate will help bolster Missouri's workforce, strengthen our economy, and make our state a better, safer, and more prosperous place to live and work. On behalf of MOD Pizza, I thank the sponsors of this important legislation and urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate Missouri. Scott & Ally Svenson Co-Founders, MOD Pizza



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT SHAFRIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-442-3872	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF ST LOUIS		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
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CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
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The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates, and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond. Jews have a deeply held belief in teshuva, loosely translated as change/turning in other words, the possibility of rehabilitation and redemption. As stated in Ezekiel (33:11), "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." The JCRC reaffirms the Biblical precept that people who offend are human beings, capable of reshaping their lives and worthy of an opportunity to repent and reenter society. HB 2555, referred to as Clean Slate legislation, is a necessary step for allowing justice involved people to reshape their lives and enter society. Throughout our history, the Jewish people know what is liked to be labeled and how that label leads to discrimination. Throughout Europe in the 1930's and 40's people who identified as Jewish were forced to wear a yellow Jewish star on their clothing; and many other marginalized groups were forced to identify themselves with a visible symbol. These symbols enabled the rest of society to openly discriminate against citizens in many ways - in education, in employment opportunities, in jobs, and in access to daily activities like purchasing food, checking out library books, entering public spaces. A person's criminal record is their label. While not immediately visible, like symbols sewn on clothing, it jumps out to grab the attention of employers, landlords, colleges and universities - anyone who uses background checks to make decisions and enables discrimination. With the dependence of technology in all fields, justice-involved people now have a digital symbol that they are unworthy of opportunities. Our criminal justice system was not designed to punish people for the rest of their lives; but that is what is occurring. ? Nearly 9 in 10 employers use background checks in their hiring process ? An estimated 4 in 5 landlords use background checks on prospective tenants? More than 3 in 5 colleges and universities use background checks in admissions. Between 60 percent and 75 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals remain unemployed one year after their release. As a result, previously incarcerated people are 10 times more likely than the general-public to end up homeless. The Legislature has recently passed several bills that would improve the chances for those who are justice-involved. These include Fresh Start legislation and the ability to expunge criminal records for many offenses. The challenge is that the expungement process is onerous. It's timely, it's costly, and can involve travel. It is out of reach of many people who are eligible for it. As a result, less than one percent of Missourians who are eligible to have their records expunged are actually able to achieve those expungements. This bill would automate the process so that everyone who has earned the opportunity for a Clean Slate is provided that second chance. The majority of our justice-involved citizens have served their time and are working to turn their lives around. They have paid their debt to society, but their records create a digital label that enables constant discrimination.

They have earned a second chance, and we have the opportunity and the obligation to extend it to them— for the common good. Therefore, we support and urge the passage of HB 2555, Clean Slate expungement legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024
COMMITTEE: General Laws		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TOM LESNAK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PRESIDENT/CEO
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[https://www.examiner.net/independence-chamber-of-commerce-missouris-employers-need-a-clean-slate/Missouri's employers need Clean Slate](https://www.examiner.net/independence-chamber-of-commerce-missouris-employers-need-a-clean-slate/Missouri's+employers+need+Clean+Slate).By: Tom Lesnak, President, Independence Chamber of CommerceAs President and CEO of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, I am always striving to create the best conditions for our local businesses. Since our founding in 1920, the Chamber has been dedicated to building a business community of excellence. We have more than 700 member companies working tirelessly to create economic growth across our region.Despite our best efforts, Independence's employers are still facing an unprecedented labor shortage. If our businesses are going to keep their doors open, we need to attract and retain top quality talent. We're not alone – recent data from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found Missouri's worker shortage to be one of the worst in the country, with only 53 available workers for every 100 open jobs. It's clear that we need new talent – and a new labor pool.That is why the Independence Chamber of Commerce is joining chambers and employers across Missouri, and around the country, in strong support of Clean Slate. By passing HB 2108/HB 2555, and SB 1161/SB 763, which would automatically seal old criminal records for individuals who remain crime-free, Missouri's leaders can grow the workforce and strengthen the economy.Individuals with old criminal records face more than 40,000 barriers to meaningful re-entry. They are far more likely than the general population to be unemployed, even years after they have served their time. While tens of thousands Missourians are eligible to have their old records cleared right now, the costs and complications associated are incredibly burdensome. Only one percent will actually receive the relief to which they are entitled. As a result, we're needlessly excluding thousands of qualified and talented Missourians from the workforce.Automating the record sealing process could have an immediate, and significant, impact on our workforce. Studies have shown that individuals who have their records sealed are far more likely to be employed, and earn significantly higher wages, than those who have not. Missouri loses \$2.6 billion in cumulative earnings each year due to the underemployment of people with criminal records that could be, but have not been, cleared.Our state and our businesses cannot afford the status quo. Nor can our communities. Stable employment is one of the most important factors in determining whether or not someone will reoffend. By reducing economic obstacles for people with criminal records, Clean Slate will improve community safety. In fact, a study in Michigan found that people who had their records cleared were less likely to commit a new offense than the general population as a whole. Passing Clean Slate will make Independence – and cities and towns around the state – safer, stronger, and more prosperous.We know the challenges businesses are facing. We know how much Missouri's employers need qualified talent, and the impact this would have on our state and our economy. Missourians are no stranger to challenge, though – we tackle them head on. That's why we urge the Missouri legislature to pass Clean Slate, HB 2108/HB 2555, and SB 1161/SB 763. Together, we can build a safer and stronger Missouri for years to come.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC D. JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-4726	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2555		DATE: 3/26/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FERGUSON BRYAN FEEMSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bryan.feemster@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2024 10:49 AM	
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My name is Bryan Feemster. I am the Circuit Clerk of Greene County, Missouri. I am providing information I hope will be helpful in vetting HB 2555. HB 2555 applies to electronic/digital records. Greene County has records stored on the state electronic system back to 2008. We previously used a local electronic record system (WRITS) between 1990 and 2008. The WRITS system stored summary information while most documents were paper. Everything previous to 1990 was stored as paper files. The requirement to search electronic records appears to include those stored on our defunct WRITS system. Our experience expunging marijuana charges in compliance with a recent amendment to the Missouri Constitution gives valuable insight into what to expect from HB 2555. The Greene County marijuana expungement process follows the following steps: 1. The Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) searched digital court records for cases with potential eligible charges and provided lists to Circuit Clerks. 2. The Circuit Clerk's Office processed these lists of thousands of cases. One cannot rely on a computer search to positively identify eligible charges. Documentation of each case was individually reviewed by an experienced Clerk to determine whether documentation contained an eligible charge(s). Note: It appears HB 2555 would require all of this to be completed before the monthly list of clean slate eligible offenses is sent to the central repository and prosecuting agencies. 3. Proposed Orders of Expungement were prepared by Clerks and sent to court for review. 4. Clerks performed expungements for cases approved by the court. Note: HB 2555 directs that expungements be completed within 30 days of being sent to the courts by OSCA. This is not enough time to expunge our court records. Greene County Clerks spend more than two hours per marijuana expungement case. Greene County has expunged more than 4,200 cases. We are not yet done with digital records. We have been working on this project since February, 2023. HB 2555 would result in many more expunged cases and required resources than the marijuana project. There is no such thing as automated expungement. HB 2555 expungements compare to marijuana expungements in the following ways: 1. Each marijuana case can be processed without checking any other case. HB 2555 limits total lifetime charges that may be expunged requiring a state-wide tracking system. The entire electronic criminal history for every individual must be searched to determine whether they have exceeded the lifetime limit. This will have to be verified by searching every document in every case for each individual (probably using a social security number since variations on names are commonly used). 2. HB 2555 would require searching for numerous types of offenses. 3. People who move frequently or have moved recently could have undetected ineligible offenses in other states. 4. There are four exceptions that prevent a marijuana charge from being eligible for expungement. There are 91 statute references listed in RSMo 610.140 as exceptions to expungement plus other exceptions such as not having paid restitution. Since non-digital records are not searched, exceptions stored on paper or microfiche will not be known. 5. Very few people have contacted us about marijuana expungements. Interest seems to be low. This may be indicative of a low level of

interest in HB 2555 expungements.6. We are unable to notify a majority of people their marijuana expungement has been completed (the majority of mail notifications are returned). This may also be the case with HB 2555 since we would not have information normally contained in a petition. Circuit Clerks are passionate about our responsibility to serve people utilizing the Missouri court system. Intended beneficiaries of HB 2555 will have no stake, little understanding, and likely no knowledge of their expungement. Here are a couple of suggestions that might improve results:1. Treatment courts require an application from potential participants to verify genuine interest in improving their future. Circuit Clerk's would suggest a requirement to complete a petition for expungement would verify an interest in people seeking to improve their lives. The information provided in the petition would reduce tax payer money spent searching for this information and provide current contact information used by the Circuit Clerk to notify the petitioner about results.2. An education program designed to let people know they are eligible under the current 610.140 program, how to file a petition, and what the benefits of expungement are could be a worthy project. I truly appreciate your time and consideration. Bryan Feemster, Greene County Circuit Clerk