



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: ABIGAIL IRWIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: abigailabey@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:15 AM

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

This makes perfect sense. As a Missourian, as a parent and educator, as a believer in justice, and especially as someone who has served on a jury, I want the justice process to matter! The whole point of trial by jury is to apply the will of the people for those who have committed crimes against the people. And if the people are not willing to put their fellow human to death, a judge should not be able to go over the jury's head when they are supposed to be the deciding party. If they are unwilling to pass a sentence of death or are deadlocked - then it makes no sense for a judge to do so during the jury trial. Please keep out justice system in the hands of the people and logically consistent. If we can't have faith in the justice system, we have little to remain faithful to. If we can't hold the justice system accountable, we can't hold fellow citizens and people accountable.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AHKEYA T HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ahkeya@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 10:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The justice system was designed not only to punish but also to rehabilitate those who break the law, acting as both a deterrent and a source of support for individuals who commit crimes out of desperation, due to mental illness, addiction, or youthful mistakes. However, far too often, we continue to punish people for years, even decades, for past offenses. This prolonged punishment severely limits their ability to support themselves, pushing them toward reliance on social safety nets or even back into criminal behavior, which only leads to more prison time—both of which come at a high cost to taxpayers and society at large. I am proud to support Senators Trent and Williams' proposals to swiftly and efficiently expunge criminal records, ensuring that anyone who has earned a second chance through their actions is given the opportunity to start anew. Offenses like drug possession, writing a bad check, or petty theft should not be a lifelong sentence in the eyes of the community. Clean Slate offers individuals a pathway to secure stable employment, housing, and education—making it less likely that they will reoffend. We all know people who have made mistakes and have worked hard to turn their lives around. They want to provide for their families, pursue education, and build a better future. Having already paid their debt to society, their criminal record remains an obstacle, constantly hindering their progress. They have earned a second chance, and it is both our opportunity and our responsibility to extend it to them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALEX CASON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: strandedvisitor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:03 PM

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Eligible people should not continue to have their employment and housing prospects destroyed by old, minor convictions for which they're already paid their debt to society.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA VIVIANO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bellahope@myyahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:07 PM

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I support the Clean slate because it delivers hope for humanity to focus on the greater good of a temporary world. We were all given free air to breathe in our lungs & a heart beat to reconnect again. No one owns this planet and when there is a proven track record of improved change--in good faith--deserve a second shot in society. Life is a miracle and we should remind ourselves of this promise. We have all experienced loss and this alone should strengthen our bond to one another. Compassion & grace goes along way to place ourselves in others shoes. Seeing through higher perspective and fulfilling a deeper purpose for all. Sometimes innocent lives are unfairly persecuted while the ones whom truly cheated others are running around scott free. Rethinking the legal system process and encouraging hope for changed lives seems as an obvious solution to lots of our current problems. Long term approach delivers results.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANN BODE RODRIGUEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ann.bode@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:22 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANNE LITWIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: anne@annelitwin.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 12:00 PM
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I support passage of this bill to create an automatic process to expunge to the criminal records of eligible individuals. The stigma of a criminal record is a major driver of poverty, recidivism and cycles of reincarceration. A criminal record should not become a life sentence for a life of poverty. Anne Litwin



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AWESTA SARKASH		PHONE NUMBER: 202-828-8357	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1015 15TH STREET NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20005
EMAIL: asarkash@smallbusinessmajority.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:03 AM	

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

February 10, 2025
RE: Small Business Majority Support for House Bill 953
 Dear Chair Gallick, Vice-Chair Thompson and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business Majority writes again to respectfully express our support for Clean Slate Missouri (HB 953), common-sense legislation that would grow Missouri’s workforce, strengthen the economy and support the thousands of small business owners across the state. We are a national small business organization that empowers America’s diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. With a network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations we help deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth. At Small Business Majority, we know that small businesses are the heart of America and nowhere is that more evident than in Missouri, where they make up more than 99% of all businesses in the state. Unfortunately, Missouri businesses of all sizes are facing an ongoing labor shortage with 53 available workers for every 100 open jobs. This has an enormous impact on the state’s workforce and economy. This labor shortage is further exacerbated by the reality that 1 in 3 American adults—and nearly two million Missourians – have some form of a criminal record. For these individuals, having a record—even when it is decades-old – can present significant barriers to meaningful employment, housing, education, occupational licensing, and other critical services. It can also severely limit a person’s ability to start a new business. As employers seek to fill these vacancies and Missouri looks to strengthen its economy, we should be working to ensure that people who want jobs and are ready to work can enter the workforce. Clean Slate would help remove unnecessary barriers, and small business owners across Missouri would benefit. In 2022, we polled small business owners across the country, and found overwhelming support for reforms that would remove barriers to employment or entrepreneurship opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals. In fact, 84% of small business owners agreed that Clean Slate policies would open up a pool of applicants that have earned a second chance. This would benefit small businesses in their efforts to hire and recruit employees by tapping into a vast, underutilized and productive workforce. The impact on employment prospects and earning potential can also hardly be understated. A study in Michigan found that automatic record sealing increases wages by more than 20 percent within one year alone; without being burdened by a criminal record, justice-impacted individuals can earn significantly more. Further, employers who hire justice-impacted workers consistently report that their turnover rates are notably lower and the quality of work of individuals who have a criminal record are on par with or better than their peers. For small business owners, these benefits are anything but small. Clean Slate would help small businesses flourish, all while bolstering the workforce and strengthening the economy. Small Business Majority urges the legislature to pass Clean Slate (HB 953).
 Sincerely,
 Awesta Sarkash
 Public Policy Director
 Small Business Majority



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEATRICE PARWATIKAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: beatrica98@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 10:22 PM
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I believe this is very important to expunge records of people who already qualify because it give them a better chance for employment and this is a obstacle to housing sometimes. This especially help low income people who don't have the finances to take that step. Thank you



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CADE TREMAIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 428 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CARA STARK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-9481	
REPRESENTING: JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 630 BOLIVAR ST. STE. 201			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHY RAUCH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: crauch1949@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 7:38 AM
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I'm fully in support of this bill. People who have roadblocks that prevent them from getting employment only further hinders our communities from being safe. If a person can't work legally then they are forced to find money in less legal ways. We can all benefit from getting people back to being productive citizens.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER L SCHRAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Chrisschraw@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 6:55 PM
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I support HB 953 because it makes sense on many levels. It will make a currently complicated process much easier enabling more people to take advantage of it. Persons with criminal records have a difficult time finding work which then makes it difficult for them to support their families and also difficult for them to avoid recidivism. By making more people eligible for work it should make employers happy, too.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL LEACH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: danielshopnow@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:02 AM

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previously incarcerated need clean records to gain employment



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dcampbell@jtnl.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:33 PM

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

My name is Danielle Campbell. I grew up in Grain Valley, MO with my mom and dad. My grandparents lived down the road and we visited them often. I was on the honor roll and actively involved with sports. In 2016, I ended up in prison on a possession charge. My felony should not define me. If I had a "clean slate" this could eliminate barriers that I continue to face even though I have served my time in the Missouri Department of Corrections. I am now a case manager at Journey to New Life, helping other men and woman who are released from prison. I support my clients with reentry life skills, housing support, advocacy, financial literacy, etc. Currently in Missouri the expungement process is expensive and difficult to navigate, shutting out people with low incomes who already qualify for a 2nd chance. Under our current system, those with money or powerful connections are treated differently than everyone else. If we can automate the process, it will even the playing field for everyone. I make 45k per year and things are very tight with paying market rent \$900, \$100 utilities, \$100 food, \$500 car payment, \$150 insurance, just to name a few. Clean Slate offers someone like me a life that would NOT be defined by their worst mistake, and those who have completed their sentence and stayed out of trouble with the law deserve a second chance. I have paid my debt to society and should not be punished forever by being denied jobs, housing, and the opportunity to be an active member of my community. If it weren't for Journey to New Life, I wouldn't come close to making a livable wage. Like so many of my peers, we are not being given opportunities to be successful. Employers are defining who we are based off our past and not willing to hear the strives we've made to better our lives. This is also the case with landlords, I was denied housing through multiple properties from a felony possession charge I got in 2011.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:34 AM
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Clean slates can make a huge difference for many people.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEACON DAVID BILLING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: DavidLBilling@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:31 AM

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THERE IS NO COMMAThere is no comma in between the word Governor and or death. The intent of the original language was to specify that the defendant cannot be released from their imprisonment except by a Governor's pardon **OR WHEN THEY DIE**, and that the default sentence when the jury is hung is life without parole.**Thank you, Deacon David Billing**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANA OLESKEVICH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: 2livesimply2@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 7:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

our son needs this = he's a fine man who made a mistake when a teenager -- please help...HB 953 would automate the criminal-record expungement process for the half-million individuals who are already eligible, but who cannot navigate the current petition process, which is complicated and expensive. sending you blessings!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DONNA M. WALMSLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: donnawalmsley@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:41 PM	

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

I urge the committee to support HB 953 because it preserves the integrity of our justice system by returning the sentencing in a capital murder trial to the jury, not a judge, when the jury does not reach a unanimous decision. Missouri has been an outlier in capital murder sentencing when the jury is not unanimous. In the capital murder sentencing case of Craig Wood in Greene County about 10 years ago, the jury did not reach a unanimous sentence. Judge Tom Mountjoy decided Mr. Wood should be sentenced to death. Notable in this case is that the victim's family did not want to pursue a death sentence, but Greene County Prosecutor Dan Patterson went against their wishes and sought death. Mr. Wood received the death sentence due to the actions of two people--the County Prosecutor and the judge. Abolishing the loophole of a judge deciding the sentence in a capital murder case when the jury is not unanimous would legally provide justice in sentencing, because the sentence would be handed down by the jury, not the judge. Three of the five people who are eligible for execution in Missouri received their death sentence because of this loophole. This is outrageous. Please abolish this loophole.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH A. MULVAHILL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: elizabeth.mulvahill@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:14 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Missouri juries should regain the authority to choose sentencing, without fear of overrule by a judge.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gotakeahike2@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:08 AM
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After a person has done their time and paid their fine, this would automate the criminal-record expungement process for the half-million individuals who are already eligible. Presently this is possible, but very complicated and expensive. This bill will give people the stability of a good job and home, thus allowing them to give back to society. This is good for Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELYSE MAX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: elyse.max@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 9:46 AM	
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I am writing today in support of Bill 953, This bill represents an opportunity to ensure that the hard work of juries in Missouri is not undermined by the judicial process- especially when addressing the most difficult cases, those involving capital punishment. Judicial override is undemocratic and unconstitutional. It undermines the role of the jury in imposing the ultimate punishment. In federal death penalty cases and in all other states besides Missouri and Indiana, a deadlocked jury results in an automatic sentence of life without parole. Current Missouri statute § 565.030 (2013) allows a judge to impose a death sentence without a unanimous jury verdict. When a jury cannot reach a unanimous verdict for life without parole or death, the statute states that the judge will assess the mitigating and aggravating evidence and then choose between life without parole or death. Unconstitutional under the Sixth Amendment: the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Sixth Amendment requires a jury, not a judge, to find each fact necessary to impose the death sentence. Juries should have the final say on whether to impose the death penalty or life in prison in capital murder cases. Death sentences by judicial override will lead inevitably to expensive litigation through the automatic death penalty appeals process, only to possibly be overturned for life without parole. The automatic death penalty appeals process takes an average of 15 additional years. This is traumatizing to victim families, who must relive the events of the crime repeatedly for decades. Note: in the Craig Wood case the victim's mother had publicly requested life without parole. The judge thus sentenced her along with the defendant to go through the whole death penalty appeals process. Coincidentally, Craig is back in Greene County this week for an evidentiary hearing on a motion to vacate his death sentence. Since 2013, only one jury has voted unanimously for death and resulted in a death sentence, that was in St. Charles County in 2022. Of the four deadlock juries since 2013, two resulted in death- Marvin Rice and Craig Wood. In 2003, In State v. Whitfield, The Missouri Supreme Court invalidated the death sentence, finding that the Sixth Amendment right to trial by jury requires that the jury determine the facts necessary to render a defendant eligible for a capital sentence. Section 565.030.4 of the MO Revised Statutes, the statutory section articulating a four-step process for the imposition of a death sentence, could not be undertaken by a Judge. "This process clearly violated the requirement of Ring that the jury rather than the judge determine the facts on which the death penalty is based." Our court further observed, "Not just a statutory aggravator, but every fact that the legislature requires to be found before death may be imposed must be found by the jury." Ring v. Arizona, 536 U.S. 584 (U.S. 2002). U.S. Supreme Court invalidated Arizona's capital sentencing scheme, holding that the Sixth Amendment requires a jury to find the aggravating factors necessary for imposing the death penalty. Hurst v. Florida, 577 U.S. ___ (U.S. 2016). U.S. Supreme Court struck down Florida's capital sentencing statute, where jury's determination amounted to an advisory sentence of life or death and the Judge made the final decision on sentencing. Following this decision, the Florida Supreme Court held that a death sentence must be issued by a unanimous jury. Missouri is an outlier, not only in executions, We are one of only two

states that permit judicial override: Indiana and Missouri. In April 2017, Alabama repealed its judicial override statute. Lead Sponsor Republican Dick Brewbaker emphasized that electioneering should not play a role in decision-making in capital cases. In Alabama, judges are elected, just as they are in Missouri. According to a report by the Equal Justice Institute one judge had noticed that he sentenced 3 black men to death, in light of his re-election he realized he needed to sentence a white person to death, and he did. Brewbaker found that overwhelmingly, the majority of judges preferred for juries to hold the ultimate decision-making power, as envisioned by the Constitution. According to a recent Pew poll, the death penalty is a punishment most of the US has deemed archaic and barbaric, and unnecessary for public safety. If Missouri desires to continue to make its citizens complicit in state murder, we should honor and recognize the constitution which requires sentencing by a jury of peers. Thank for your consideration of this important bill. Elyse MaxMADP, Co-Director elyse@madpmo.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: ERIN SCHRIMPF		PHONE NUMBER: 816-863-3970
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT		TITLE: SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ADDRESS: PO BOX 410221		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64141
EMAIL: erin@kclobby.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:35 PM
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Testifying on behalf of the Missouri Budget Project.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: FRANCIE MARION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dct041@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 9:06 AM

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

Good afternoon Chairwoman Gallick, Vice Chair Thompson, ranking member Johnson, and honorable members of the Economic Development Committee. My name is Fran Marion. I'm a shift manager at Wendy's in Kansas City, MO, and I've been a fast food worker for over 20 years. I'm also a single mother of 2 young adults and a leader with the Missouri Workers Center. I'm here today to testify in favor of HB 953, the Clean Slate Initiative. I got arrested in 2009. I was working at McDonald's, making \$8.50/hr. On the poverty wages McDonald's was paying me we struggled to keep up with the bills. We fell behind on our electric bill and got our lights cut off. For a little while, we were able to run an extension cord from our neighbor's house so we could charge our phones, cook, and the kids could take a bath with warm water. But eventually we wore out our welcome and couldn't do that anymore. Worried about my kids, I resorted to cashing a bad check for \$700. It would have been just enough to pay our light bill and get our electricity turned back on. But as you can probably guess, that's not how it went down. The day I tried to cash the check, I got arrested right then and there. I spent 6 years in a state penitentiary for trying to keep the lights on for my family. That's 6 years of missed birthdays and holidays with my kids, and watching them grow into young adults, that I can never get back. Can you imagine missing that much time with your kids when they need you most? When I got out, I went to the halfway house and they gave me a list of places that would hire people with a record: fast food restaurants and low-wage warehouse jobs. The same jobs that had trapped me in poverty before. I ended up at Popeye's where I worked for 7 years. And I have been trapped in low-wage jobs ever since. I have always worked. But, I have been stuck in low-paying jobs — sometimes more than one at the same time — where me and my coworkers are creating BILLIONS of dollars in wealth for corporations that don't even pay me enough to feed my kids. We have been homeless, we have had our lights and water cut off. It doesn't have to be this way. After 7 years at Popeye's, I knew that store like the back of my hand, but I was denied a promotion to become a shift leader because I committed a crime of poverty almost 2 decades ago. And I can't tell you how many times I have been denied housing for the same reason. Me and my kids have been forced to live in unsafe housing because of my record. No matter how hard I work, I don't feel any less trapped. Society continues to punish me with a LIFE SENTENCE where my record is on me like a scarlet letter. No matter who we are — Black, white, or Brown — we make mistakes. We all deserve to move on in life when we make amends. Isn't that what being human is about? Right now, 518,000 Missourians like me are already eligible for expungement, but less than 1% of us actually get our records expunged because the process is too difficult, time-consuming, and expensive. I'm here today to ask you to cut the red tape and make expungement automatic so we can finally have the clean slate we deserve. Please vote YES on HB953. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: FRED J DREILING		PHONE NUMBER: 816-806-6335
REPRESENTING: BUILDERS' OF KC A CHAPTER OF THE AGC		TITLE: LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: 1025 W 64TH TERR		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64113
EMAIL: freddreilingllc@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2025 2:05 PM
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HONOR NOBLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: noblepeace81@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 8:03 PM
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ALL of our citizens have value. ALL of our citizens voices deserve to be heard. It is an injustice a person pays for loss of civic representation for a lifetime after their sentence had been served. We can do better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: JACKIE HUEBBE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-680-8004	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SUGARBOT SWEET SHOP; SUGARBOT CREAMERY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 433 JACKSON ST			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63301
EMAIL: jackie@sugarbotsweetshop.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 3:47 PM	

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

Re: HB 953 Dear Chair Gallick, Vice-Chair Thompson, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, My name is Jackie Huebbe and I am the proud owner of two storefronts in St. Charles, Missouri: SugarBot Sweet Shop, our bakery location, and SugarBot Creamery, an old-fashioned soda fountain and ice cream parlor. Last session I testified in support of Clean Slate as a business owner and life-long resident of Missouri. Today, I write to you in continued support of Clean Slate Missouri, HB 953. In 2012, I started SugarBot because I wanted to have more control over the products I made, and enable myself to do business in a way that aligned with my personal values. In my 13 years of business ownership, I have grown and supported the community through acquisition of two other small businesses, and have purchased, fully rehabbed, and continued to maintain two key historic buildings in St. Charles. Last year, SugarBot was honored to have received the "Grow St. Charles" award, which is presented to a business that has made meaningful contributions to the city based on their impacts on the environment, community, innovation, and employee programs. I am deeply proud of the work I have done in St. Charles, and the work I will continue to do within my business and the greater community. SugarBot exists to be a place for families, for celebrations, for sharing. Above all, we are a business that believes in empowering folks to do better for not just the ones they love, but also for themselves. Unfortunately, for the approximately 1.9 million Missourians who have some form of a criminal record, these basic human experiences are often out of reach – all due to a mistake made, sometimes decades, in the past. Everyone knows someone who has made a mistake they regret and then learned from their actions. I strongly believe that folks deserve second chances and I believe that everyone reading this can remember a time in their own life that they were the recipient of a second chance – perhaps one that even changed their life. When it comes to second chances, I don't say these things in a hypothetical sense; at SugarBot, we actively employ folks with felony convictions, as well as those who have grown up in the prison pipelines that continue to exist in the state of Missouri and beyond. In my prior testimony, I shared details of the first employee, who was released after serving 36 years in prison and we were lucky to hire through St. Louis University's Transformative Workforce Academy. After accepting the offer, he was promoted three times in less than two years, quickly becoming our absolute favorite employee to work with. I am happy to share that he is still employed with us today. I would like to also share that we, at SugarBot, continue to offer positions to those rebuilding their lives from much less severe crimes - including those that would be impacted by the passage of Clean Slate. Unfortunately, in many instances, those we offer a position to have been unable to accept employment due to the logistical impediments as a result of their convictions. On several occasions, I've witnessed individuals who are ultimately forced to decline the offer due to housing and transportation limitations, despite the fact that many live within the same county where my businesses reside. Additionally, I continue to spend my precious and limited time as a mentor for

others participating in the program with job coaching, skill building, and resume writing. I am dedicated to supporting those who are helping themselves, and continuing to directly witness the vast pool of talent that wants so badly to rejoin society and make right the wrongs that have been committed. While I understand that Clean Slate will not help everyone that we are able to employ, it aims to help the thousands of individuals who we do not have open positions for find meaningful employment elsewhere. It will also help folks build the lives they have worked so hard to regain. Additionally, it would help those we are able to employ accept and celebrate a more dignified return to the workforce, and to the community as a whole. Passing Clean Slate legislation would help remove barriers for so many who have turned their lives around, and have earned this chance. This bill would allow individuals with criminal records to access employment, housing, education, and more. Even as more and more employers are turning to Second Chance Hiring, like we did at SugarBot, systemic change is essential to fully allow individuals with old criminal records to meaningfully and fully re-enter society. I am in strong support of this legislation, and I welcome you to reach out to me at any time with questions, or to open further dialogue about my experiences in any way that may be helpful. I thank the sponsors and encourage the legislature to take this opportunity to pass Clean Slate. Jackie Huebbe



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: JAMES M DESHOTELS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jdesh@loyno.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 5:40 PM	
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As the largest and oldest anti-poverty advocacy agency in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration. We are thrilled to offer testimony in support of SB 19, which we'll be referencing as Clean Slate legislation. Our nation's criminal justice system was conceived and implemented long before the internet became an integral component of our society. The justice system was designed to both punish and rehabilitate people who break the law, serving as a deterrent for illegal activities and offering corrective supports to those who have broken the law out of desperation, due to mental illness or addiction, or as youthful indiscretions. Individuals are tried by a jury of their peers, and if they are found guilty, they are sentenced to a punishment that is commensurate with the level of harm caused to the community. The system was not designed to punish people for the rest of their lives. However, with the advent of the internet and online repositories for criminal records, this is the reality in which we currently live. Many individuals with past criminal records report years, even decades, of struggling to secure employment and housing due to the high prevalence of background checks conducted by employers and landlords. Nearly 9 in 10 employers use background checks in hiring; an estimated 4 in 5 landlords use background checks on prospective tenants; and more than 3 in 5 colleges and universities use background checks in admissions. In addition, an applicant with a criminal record is 50 percent to 63 percent less likely to get a callback or job offer than an identical applicant without a record; in turn, 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. With 1.8 million adults with a criminal record in Missouri, this has resulted in staggering poverty, with ripple effects extending beyond the individual and impacting families, communities and our society as a whole. The American Conservative Union's Nolan Center for Justice asserts that the harm done by a sentence should never be greater than the harm caused by a crime. But records for offenses like drug possession, writing a bad check, or petty theft can amount to what feels like a life sentence of being denied jobs, apartments, access to loans, and other collateral consequences for past mistakes. Clean Slate is important because it ensures that punishments fit the crime and have a clear end date, rather than lingering for a lifetime. When we continue to punish people for years or even decades for previous mistakes, we drastically hinder people's ability to provide for themselves— forcing them onto social safety net programs or back to criminal actions that send them back to prison— both which come at a high cost to taxpayers and society as a whole. In 2012, Missouri began to recognize the unintended consequences

that these criminal records were having on individuals and communities and implemented an expungement process that would allow individuals to have their records sealed from public view, while remaining accessible to law enforcement. Unfortunately, after a decade's worth of implementation, we have come to understand that the current process is cumbersome, complicated and costly. 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 is clearly not having the intended impact, and we are proud to support Senator Trent and Senator Williams' proposals to automate the process so that everyone who has earned the opportunity for a Clean Slate is provided that second chance. Under this system, an algorithm that is coded to eligibility criteria runs a monthly search on the state's criminal history database and routes the list of eligible records to the courts for processing. Automating the process makes it accessible to all Missourians, regardless of whether they have the knowledge, time, and resources to navigate a complicated, costly system over many months or even years. However, expungement would remain unavailable to those who have committed violent or sexual offenses, and individuals would still have to meet a number of standards to qualify for this automated process. Individuals must serve their full sentence, pay any restitution to victims in full, and remain crime-free for several years. (Individuals who remain crime-free three to four years after a nonviolent conviction are no more likely to recidivate than the general population is to be arrested.) And the opportunities that Clean Slate provides—making it easier to get a job, find stable housing, and go back to school—make it even less likely that a person will commit another crime, aiding all of our efforts to create safer communities. We also know that Clean Slate makes good business sense. It is estimated that the underemployment of formerly incarcerated job seekers costs the US economy more than \$78 billion annually. Preliminary research from Michigan finds that recipients of record sealing saw an 11 percent increase in the probability of employment and a 22 percent increase in quarterly wages in the first year. It will help to rebuild our workforce and communities post-pandemic, driving inclusive economic growth. Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across our state. We can help by adding tens of thousands of Missourians back to the workforce with Clean Slate, allowing them the opportunity to provide for their families. Employees with criminal records in the private sector have longer average tenures than employees without records, are less likely to leave voluntarily, and are no more likely to be terminated involuntarily. For these reasons, a 2022 report from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry entitled Safer Missouri, Stronger Missouri, touted the value of expungements in putting Missourians back to work. There have been some concerns about the implementation of Clean Slate in light of how burdensome the "automatic" expungement of marijuana-related offenses has been under Amendment 3. Two measures have been taken to ensure that the implementation of Clean Slate looks very different. First, there is clarifying language this year that specifies that automated expungement only applies to digital records—this means that the records can be identified and expunged more efficiently with the use of data and technology. In other words, this means there won't be a need for court clerks to dig through storerooms looking for historical paper records. Second, the outlined process in these bills has a staggered implementation timeline—three years to start the new expungement process, and two more years to finish expunging retroactive records. That means the agencies will have a total of five years before current records need to be expunged, which is much more time to implement the policy than the mere months that Amendment 3 offered. Everyone wants this bill to work in the real world, both for people who will gain access to jobs, housing, and other opportunities—and for the court and law enforcement staff that will be implementing it. Proponents of the bill are eager to incorporate feedback from the agencies that will make the bill more efficient for them to carry out. We all know people who have made mistakes and worked to turn their lives around. They want to find a job and a good home for their children. They want to go back to school and get the degree that could help them advance. They've already paid their debt to society, but their record creates never-ending barriers to their success. They have earned a second chance, and we have the opportunity and the obligation to extend it to them— for the common good.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: JAMES NORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: grolsch2006@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:28 AM

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**Judges should respect juries decisions as well as voters and not overrule based on personal beliefs.
That's judicial activism and unethical.**



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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: JAMIE MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE SKINNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Ryanandjamieskinner@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:12 PM
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As a citizen of Missouri, I am in support of HB 953... Clean Slate automation ensures that all Missourians, regardless of resources or knowledge, can navigate the expungement process without enduring a complex, costly system. While individuals convicted of violent or sexual offenses remain ineligible, those who have served their full sentence, paid restitution, and remained crime-free for several years can benefit. Research shows that individuals who stay crime-free for three to four years after a nonviolent conviction are no more likely to reoffend than the general population. By removing barriers to employment, housing, and education, Clean Slate reduces recidivism and promotes safer communities. Additionally, addressing underemployment among formerly incarcerated individuals could boost the economy, with studies showing expungement leads to increased employment rates and wages. Missouri employers facing worker shortages would benefit from adding tens of thousands of qualified individuals back into the workforce. Concerns over implementation challenges have been addressed to ensure Clean Slate runs efficiently, unlike the burdensome expungement process for marijuana-related offenses under Amendment 3. The bill specifies that only digital records are eligible for automated expungement, allowing technology to streamline the process without requiring court clerks to manually sort through paper records. Additionally, a staggered timeline grants agencies five years to implement the policy—three years to begin and two more to complete retroactive expungements—offering far more preparation time than Amendment 3’s rushed rollout. Lawmakers are committed to making this bill effective for both individuals seeking a fresh start and the court and law enforcement agencies responsible for its execution. Feedback from implementing agencies will continue to refine the process, ensuring the bill’s success in both policy and practice.



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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: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmo.mott.oxford@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 9:37 PM
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Chair Gallick and Members of the Economic Development Committee, I ask that you support this Clean Slate legislation, HB 953. I thank Rep. Davidson for sponsoring it. I am part of the prison ministry at Epiphany United Church of Christ. I am blessed to know many people who have worked hard to turn their lives around after mistakes made when they were young. Closing their records will help many find employment, secure housing, and get into educational programs. Punishment should not go on for a lifetime after people have served their sentence.



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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: JEFF STACK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-449-4585	
REPRESENTING: MID-MO FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 268			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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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: KAREN COULSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kecoulson715@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 7:51 PM
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I have seen 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. Our current expungement process is difficult to navigate and expensive. Providing for automatic expungement allows people who qualify to receive the benefit of not having a criminal record so that housing and jobs are fully open to them. Please vote Yes on HB953



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN WALSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: walshkevink@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 4:07 PM
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Clean slate makes good business sense, will help rebuild our workforce and communities post-pandemic, and drive inclusive economic growth. Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across our state. We must address this need by getting the government out of the way of Missourians who have done their time and want to find work and provide for their families. Many Missourians are held back from accessing employment because of past criminal records. Passing Clean Slate legislation will ensure that we stop punishing people who have already paid their debt to society and allow them to get back to work. It is estimated that the underemployment of formerly incarcerated job seekers costs the US economy more than \$78 billion annually. Second chance employees are generally more loyal and have lower turnover rates than other employees - significantly reducing recruitment and training costs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 11:06 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to support HB953 (Davidson), 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. In addition, the bill repeals provisions that allow judges to assess the death penalty without the unanimous decision of a jury. This judicial loophole means that when there is a hung jury in the punishment phase of a capital case, meaning the jury cannot unanimously agree to one sentence or the other however, the courts have said the judge can then make the decision and sentence the defendant to life without the possibility of parole or to death. The current statute states “the jury shall be instructed before the case is submitted that if it is unable to decide or agree upon them punishment the court shall assess and declare the punishment at life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor or death.” The intent of the original language was to specify that the defendant cannot be released from their imprisonment except by a Governor’s pardon or when they die, and that the default sentence when the jury is hung is life without parole. A court interpretation of the plain language of the statute granted the ability to sentence the defendant to death in the case of a hung jury to a single judge by adding a comma into the sentence that doesn’t exist. This interpretation undermines the power of the jury, a critical component of our legal system. To close this loophole, these bills would remove the “or death” language in the statute, requiring the judge to sentence the defendant to life without the possibility of parole in the case of a hung jury. This simple change would place the power of sentencing back into the hands of

the jury of our peers instead of one person. According to data from Missourians Against the Death Penalty (MADP), since 2002, five people have been sentenced to death by an individual judge's decision after a jury couldn't make a unanimous decision during the weighing procedure: Deandre Buchanan (2002), Amber McLaughlin (2006), Lance Shockley (2009), Marvin Rice (2017), and Craig Wood (2018). The current court-assigned death penalty loophole presents significant ethical and judicial concerns. Primarily, this practice can unduly influence the jury's decision-making process, coercing them towards a consensus out of fear that their inability to agree might directly lead to the death penalty. This scenario puts undue pressure on jurors, potentially swaying their judgment towards a guilty verdict or a specific punishment, not on the basis of evidence or moral conviction, but on the apprehension of indirectly causing a death sentence. Such a provision undermines the integrity of the jury system, which is designed to reflect impartial community standards and values in the judicial process. Repealing this provision could restore the jury's role as an impartial body meant to deliver justice based on evidence and legal principles, free from undue influence regarding sentencing outcomes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: LAURA HOLLOWAY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 3305 DANE CIRCLE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: LINDA WALLACE JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lwallacejones@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 10:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a concerned citizen, I believe that HB 953, "Clean Slate", is long overdue, and I urge support to pass this bill. It is not only a compassionate step to help individuals on their way to a stable life, but also a very important practical one so that they can get jobs, housing, and become contributing members of society. Please pass HB953!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: LISA ROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lisros54@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 3:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly urge you to support HB 953, the Clean Slate bill. I have worked with youth in the juvenile justice system and seen firsthand the benefits of expungement and the barriers to its achievement. Tens of thousands of people are eligible to have their records expunged, yet research shows that only about 1% are actually successful in obtaining expungement. There is a huge gap between the intent of Missouri's expungement law and its actual success in delivering second chances to people who have served their time, remained crime-free and turned their lives around. By eliminating barriers to jobs, housing, and education, automated records expungement allows individuals to support themselves and their families, reducing recidivism. Research shows that five years after benefitting from expungement, individuals were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. Automated records expungement is better for our communities, our safety, and the economy. Let's give people the second chances they deserve while protecting and improving our communities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: MAGGIE O'DONNELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS INITIATIVE FOR JUSTICE (RBIJ)		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY & ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 1050 30TH STREET NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20007
EMAIL: maggie@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:08 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

February 24, 2025 Re: HB 953, Clean Slate Missouri Dear Chair Gallick, Vice-Chair Thompson, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, The Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ) is an award-winning nonprofit that works with companies to champion solutions that promote public safety, deliver justice, and strengthen communities. Since its inception, RBIJ has collaborated with companies of all sizes across two dozen states to advocate for practical policy reforms that expand workforce opportunities and stimulate economic growth. Today, we proudly stand in support of the passage of HB 953 (Clean Slate), legislation that is good for business, good for the economy, and good for Missouri. Approximately 1.8 million Missourians have some form of a criminal record. For many, this poses an enormous obstacle to a person's employment, occupational licensing, housing, and educational prospects — all of which directly impact one's ability to earn a stable living and support themselves and their families. When it comes to employment, in particular, the obstacles are especially onerous: nine in ten employers currently use background checks to screen applicants, and having a record — even one that is extremely old or unrelated to the job — reduces an otherwise-qualified job seeker's chance of getting a callback by nearly 50 percent. While hundreds of thousands of Missourians are eligible to have their records sealed right now, the existing petition-based system is costly, complex, and time-consuming – so much so that less than 1% will complete the process. In practice, that means that many Missourians are being denied the relief – and the economic opportunities – they deserve. This has an enormous impact on Missouri's workforce and economy. As labor shortages persist, businesses of all sizes are struggling to fill open positions, with thousands more job vacancies than available workers. In Missouri, I've heard directly from local employers that they desperately need access to a wider talent pool. Excluding eligible workers just because they have an old criminal record is holding employers back. Clean Slate would also save taxpayer dollars and strengthen our economy. The U.S. loses an estimated \$87 billion in GDP per year due to the underemployment of formerly incarcerated people. Conversely, when people have their record sealed, their wages increase by an average of 22% within one year — which means more money back into our economy. By helping individuals with old criminal records get back into the workforce, we would also make Missouri safer. Stable employment is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism; without fair access to the workforce, individuals with records — and their families — are likely to become stuck in cycles of unemployment, poverty, and recidivism. There is a reason Clean Slate enjoys support from Missouri entrepreneurs and small business owners, mid-size and large companies, and a cohort of the state's most influential chambers. They understand what's at stake: a stronger workforce, a growing economy, and prosperous communities where they live and operate. We thank the sponsors of this important legislation and urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate, HB 953.

Maggie O'Donnell Director of Policy & Advocacy Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ)
maggie@rbij.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MARY BUREN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aburen99@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have been a jury member and it is not right for the judge to over-ride the decision of the jury. Why was a jury even used if this is allowed? One person should never be responsible for deciding the death penalty in the name of all of Missouri's residents. Trial by jury, not by judge.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MARY SCHUMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: DiemCarp@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 5:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support this legislation because it makes sense on so many levels. First, eligible individuals have, by definition, earned expungement of their records and deserve a FAIR chance to receive one. Second, a "clean slate" will give individuals more opportunities for legitimate employment and stable housing. Continuing to bar ex-offenders from employment and housing make zero sense and is a recipe for recidivism. With so many obstacles and little hope for change, too many give up. Finally, a huge segment of Missouri's population, eager and able to work, has basically been taken out of circulation, even while hiring shortages plague employers. While implementation may be of concern, other states have succeeded, and Missouri can, too. I believe that when this legislation is implemented, it will empower individuals and communities, and transform the potential for our state. I thank Rep. Davidson for sponsoring this bill, and I thank the Committee for taking it under its thoughtful consideration. Please vote Do Pass.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MIKE SCHILLING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mikeschilling1289@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 10:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Allowing a judge to enter a death sentence if the jury deadlocks is primitive madness. And the death penalty itself is madness and should be repealed. But Missouri government seems to love killing when it gets a chance.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: ML SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-814-2910	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION		TITLE: FOUNDER/DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 300563			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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 COOKSEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rumseyn@prodigy.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:31 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I know of one 35 year old person who had been jailed for bad checks. Finally she obtained a job (minimum wage) that was steady. She was a reliable hard worker. Until, a new manager found that she had a "criminal" record and dismiss this person. The person was not able to find another job, went downhill from then on and died homeless. We need HB 953.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: 2/25/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: PATTY BERGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: PHYLLIS L, EVANS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: evans63108@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 10:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly support HB963 to end the unconstitutional practice which allows a judge to impose a death sentence or life if there is a hung jury in a case that could end on a death sentence.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: RICHARD H. JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: audimanasseh@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 3:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Richard H. Jackson, the founder of Manasseh Ministry and a returning citizen. I strongly support the Clean Slate Bill, because of its positive effective this bill, when passed and made law, will provide for those returning citizens here in Missouri. Double punishing completed sentences citizens are beyond the verbal expression of inhumane and cruel, its murder. I support this bill, because it seeks to balance the playing field of hope by allowing DEI to operate in its full force. This is America and all are deserving of fair play, which means the same rights as every other citizens: rights to fair housing, decent wage employment and higher education. Clean Slates Bill will remove all the barriers. The automatic expungement allows for persons to be treated equal and fair without being haunted by our criminal arrest and conviction record. Its needed. Its necessary. Its long over due. It apart of the America constitution: All are created equal. Finally, families are reunited with assurance, their loved ones will not be dismissed because of their criminal record. Thank for your understand and thank you very much for your support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 7:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Clean slate will help rebuild our workforce. Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across our state. We must address this need by helping those who have done their time and want to find work to provide for their families. Many Missourians are held back from accessing employment because of past criminal records. Passing Clean Slate legislation will ensure that we stop punishing people who have already paid their debt to society and allow them to get back to work. Second chance employees are generally more loyal and have lower turnover rates than other employees - significantly reducing recruitment and training costs. It will also add to the tax base and bring in more state revenue. It is estimated that the underemployment of formerly incarcerated job seekers costs the US economy more than \$78 billion annually.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: ROCHELLE KASKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-813-4686	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE		TITLE: CO-CHAIR, CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM TASK FORCE	
ADDRESS: 1422 ANNA AVENUE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: rakasko@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2025 9:48 PM

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

Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice 698 West Lockwood Ave Webster Groves, MO 63119 womensvoicesraised.org February 20, 2025 To: Chairwoman Gallick and Members, House Economic Development Committee Re: HB 953 Honorable Chair and Members of the Economic Development Committee: We are testifying on behalf of Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice in support of House Bill 953, often referred to as Clean Slate legislation. Women's Voices, founded in 2005, is a nonpartisan organization of more than 300 St. Louis area members with 4469 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' activities in the community. Our interest in Clean Slate initiatives began four 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 many obstacles that people returning to our communities face because of a criminal record, no matter how minor. 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 laws provide 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 or afford the current petition process, leaving half a million Missourians with criminal records that the law already says can be expunged. This is neither fair for 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. Nationally, and in Missouri, recidivism rates are in the 60-70% range. But states that have cleared people for expungement have seen recidivism rates drop to 20-30% and lower. Moreover, studies show that ex-offenders who have remained crime-free for 3 to 5 years are no more likely or even less likely than the general population to commit a crime. 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 Representative Davidson for introducing House Bill 953. 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. 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 Bill 953.

Respectfully,
Rochelle Kaskowitz
Karen Coulson and Rochelle Kaskowitz, Co-Chairs, Criminal Legal System Reform Task Force
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice
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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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 KASKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: galianobc@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Clean Slate is good for our communities. I would like to call attention to two studies that followed more than 1,000 formerly incarcerated people in Pennsylvania who had their records expunged through gubernatorial pardons. These studies covered the decade from 2008 to 2017, and preceded and supported the passage and implementation of Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Act in 2018. The economic development study found impressive economic benefits to individuals and neighborhoods, and it concluded that finding ways to increase expungements could provide no-cost economic investments across the state, especially in areas most in need of growth. The parallel recidivism study of the same individuals found a stunningly low level of recidivism over a 10-year period and satisfied public safety concerns. Thank you for allowing me to testify. I ask that this bill be sent out of committee with a "Do Pass" recommendation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: RUTH ANN CIOCI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: phillypfc@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I feel very strongly that we need this bill because it is the humane thing to do and would actually make us all safer if ex-convicts could more easily secure housing, employment and aid. This is very important.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION		TITLE: COMMISSIONER	
ADDRESS: 9511 EVERMAN AVE.			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 12:30 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SANDRA E MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: millersandr@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 12:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to strongly urge the Economic Development Committee to vote HB 953, Clean Slate, out of committee and move the bill one step closer to passage by the full House. As humans, all of us make mistakes. Forgiveness is one of the foundations of my faith. That is not to say that people who commit a crime should not be punished but when they have paid their debt to society, their mistakes should be automatically erased and they should receive forgiveness just as you or I would want for ourselves, our adult children and grandchildren. One in three Missourians have a criminal record. Only those with the luxury of time and money can afford to get their mistakes erased and forgiven. The Bible promises that all who repent (or in the case of civil society, pay their debt to society) should be forgiven and automatically erased. Moreover, we have a labor shortage in Missouri. Restaurants, factories, hospitals and other employers cannot find people to fill jobs. The labor shortage will only get worse as the Administration in Washington deports people who have come to this country in search of safety and a job. One of the reasons we have a labor shortage is that one in three people with criminal records cannot get jobs due to their criminal records. The State Chamber of Commerce supports Clean Slate because it makes sense for our economy. I strongly support Clean Slate and hope you will move HB 953 forward. Sandra Miller 1422 Anna Avenue University City, MO 63130 501-908-5898 millersandr@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: SARA SCHMIDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sarajschmidt@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 1:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missouri is one of a few states that allow judges to bypass a jury's decision and enter a sentence of death when a jury deadlocks (hung jury). HB 953 would remove the words "or death" from the statute, requiring judges to sentence defendants to life without parole. The death sentence could still be applied if the jury unanimously agrees. This change would return sentencing power to the jury, as it should be.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.felts@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 12:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NAACP, MISSOURIANS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156
REPRESENTING: MISSOURIANS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE: LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SHAWNTELLE LANETTE FISHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: shawntelle_fisher@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 4:27 PM	

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

My name is Shawntelle LaNette Fisher, Founder and CEO of The SoulFisher Ministries. The SoulFisher Ministries is a nonprofit organization with a mission to respond to the needs of youth with incarcerated parents and to promote restorative justice for those currently or formerly incarcerated. We accomplish our mission by providing after school tutoring and enrichment for students who have an incarcerated parent and reentry programs and services for currently or formerly incarcerated people. I am definitely in support of the Clean Slate Bill. My only concern is that those who receive the "clean slate" will still have their criminal record used against them. I am a highly influential community and business leader in St. Louis who also happens to be a convicted felon. I also the recipient of expungement. In light of this, my criminal record continues to be used against me because Missouri, in an effort to undermine efforts like expungement and Clean Slate, has enacted a State Statute that allows for governmental agencies you still use the criminal conviction against you. This statute is 210.1080. If you have ever PLED GUILTY to a disqualifying crime, it's used against you as a disqualifier for working with children. An example of this is seen in the ELIGIBLE letter that I received, in December 2019, from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to be a Director over the after school programs that I started and have led for 11 years. The eligibility letter is only good for 5 years. When I applied to have the letter renewed, I was informed that I am now INELIGIBLE to even be on site at any of my sites because the statute changed, not because I committed a new crime. The crime stems from a Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS) that I received for an assault charge 30 years ago when I had a fight with my boyfriend. Another example is when I applied to be a foster parent. My application was denied not because I am not qualified to be a foster parent, not because I don't have a safe stable home to foster children in, not because I can't financially care for foster children, but because of I PLED GUILTY to the crime 30 years ago. If crimes can be held against you as a collateral consequence of merely PLEADING GUILTY to a crime, it undermines the spirit of both expungement and the Clean Slate initiative.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: STEPHEN WEISSMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sweissman4@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:00 AM
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Making the expungment process simpler and faster will allow ex-offenders to get on with their lives



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SUSAN FITZGIBBON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: fitzgisa@icloud.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 5:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in support of legislation designed to 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. Unfortunately, one in three Missourians has a criminal record. Removing the stigma of criminal records will allow people better opportunities for jobs and housing, thereby increasing their ability to support themselves and their families, and allowing them to resume productive lives in our communities. 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, the current petition-based process is cumbersome and expensive. Consequently, fewer than 1% of eligible people are able to access expungement, despite its life changing potential. By providing automatic expungement of criminal records for those who are already eligible for expungement, Clean Slate enables Employers 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. Finally, 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. Thank you for your consideration, Susan A. FitzGibbon St. Louis, MO 63130



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2025 8:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: SUSAN GLASSMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susankglassman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2025 5:31 PM

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

I urge you to vote **DO PASS** on HB 953. HB 953, also known as Clean Slate would clear the records of people with non-violent criminal records who after serving time or other penalty have not committed any new misdemeanors or felonies. These people would have opportunities to contribute to their families and communities through employment. Expungement of criminal records for this category of people has been shown to reduce recidivism. Thank you for considering my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: THERESA HEBRON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eartousky10@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I believe that condemning a person to death is a serious decision that should be made by a jury of the defendant's peers after said jury has found he/her to be guilty of first-degree murder. When the jury cannot unanimously agree to one sentence, which results in a 'Hung-Jury' then the judge should sentence the defendant to life in prison without the possibility of parole. I do not support the unilateral right of a judge to sentence the defendant to death, if the jury was unable to agree to do so.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: TIM DRISCOLL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: timdriscoll1951@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 9:48 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Death penalty should be abolished. We do have it so at least it should be administered by a jury of one's peers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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
ADDRESS: 210 W TRUMAN ROAD		
CITY: INDEPENDENCE	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64050
EMAIL: Tom@ichamber.biz	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

February 24, 2025 Re: HB 953 Dear Chair Gallick, Vice-Chair Thompson, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, As President and CEO of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, I write to you today to again voice support for Clean Slate Missouri (HB 953) which would automatically clear old criminal records for individuals who remain crime-free. In 2024, I bylined the below piece in The Examiner urging the Missouri legislature to pass this legislation, which would ensure that companies in Independence and across the state have access to a strong talent pipeline, supporting the state’s economic future. Today, I continue to believe that Clean Slate is good for business, families, and communities. As such, the Independence Chamber of Commerce stands alongside a strong cohort of other chambers and local businesses in support. Tom Lesnak President Independence Chamber of Commerce --Independence Chamber of Commerce: Missouri’s employers need a Clean SlateFEBRUARY 16, 2024 OPINIONBy 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 600 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 ourworkforce. 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. The proposed clean slate legislation has been endorsed by the chamber’s public policy committee, and our board of directors has included it in our 2024 legislative agenda. 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
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: TOMMIE HOLLINS SR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-647-9366	
REPRESENTING: "NAACP, UNIT 4008-B, PULASKI COUNTY, MO"		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT MISSOURI STATE NAACP, UNIT 4008-B P	
ADDRESS: 17039 LANES END			
CITY: DIXON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65459
EMAIL: thsr007@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 3:17 PM	

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There are 13 people currently living under death sentences in Missouri, and 10 are eligible for execution. There have been over 185 exonerations of persons from death row in the United States since 1976. Missouri accounts for four exonerations so far. There have been 97 executions in the state of Missouri since 1976. Executions are listed in chronological order. Data is consistent with Death Penalty Information Center. "The criminal justice system is premised on the idea that innocent people shouldn't be convicted," What if you were wrongfully accused, found guilty, and sentenced to death? You must think about that, this is not a black or white issue, review the DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER for yourself. Let the great state of Missouri lead the way for this nation to do the right things.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: TRINA MUHAMMAD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: muhammadtrina@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 7:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: VIC BURTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cvburton@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missouri is one of a few states that allow judges to bypass a jury's decision and enter a sentence of death when a jury deadlocks (hung jury). HB 953 would remove the words "or death" from the statute, requiring judges to sentence defendants to life without parole. The death sentence could still be applied if the jury unanimously agrees. This change would return sentencing power to the jury, as it should be.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: WALDEMAR RESZKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: wa311@yahoo.pl	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 1:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 11:47 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
I am Opposed to this Bill in its present form. This Bill Needs work and Amendments.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLIE SELF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: elliemself@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2025 8:07 AM
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Allowing a judge to bypass a jury's decision fully negates the purpose of having trial by jury in the first place, and would be a gross injustice. Passing this bill would be anti-democratic. And as the child of a convicted felon, I personally would hate to see a family ripped apart just based off a judge's misuse of power.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 207 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: eric.jennings@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 7:25 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katiea@planetkc.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 7:26 AM

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

• Clean slate will help rebuild our workforce and communities post-pandemic, and drive inclusive economic growth. • Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across our state. We must address this need by getting the government out of the way of Missourians who have done their time and want to find work and provide for their families. • Many Missourians are held back from accessing employment because of past criminal records. Passing Clean Slate legislation will ensure that we stop punishing people who have already paid their debt to society. • the cost of having these individual un-employed or under-employed cost the stat of Missouri valuable dollars. • Second chance employees have lower turnover rates than other employees - significantly reducing recruitment and training costs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHAEL KLARICH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-740-5072	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 240 EAST HIGH ST. SUITE 300			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON KOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 220 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID KENT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BANKERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: 207 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 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 953		DATE: 2/25/2025
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: WALDEMAR RESZKA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wa311@yahoo.pl	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2025 10:41 PM
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Good morning About 8 hours ago I testified in support of HB953 so that judges would not be able to impose death penalty sentences .I am against the jury being allowed to pass a death sentence unanimously or non-unanimously .I'm sorry but regarding my testimony about HB 953 I am only in favour of banning death penalty for everyone .I am against the death penalty I am against putting anyone in prison I am against taking anyone to court I wish you all the best Have a nice day