



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: AHKEYA HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:24 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Testimony in Support of HB 2747 and HB 2047
 Clean Slate Legislation

Chairperson and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2747 and HB 2047. My name is Ahkeya Howard, and I am here to urge you to advance these important Clean Slate bills.

Clean Slate legislation makes good sense for Missouri’s workforce, our economy, and our communities. As our state continues to recover from the pandemic, employers across Missouri are struggling to fill open positions—from healthcare support and construction to manufacturing, childcare, and food service. At the same time, many Missourians who are ready and willing to work are locked out of employment because of past criminal records, even after they have completed their sentences and paid their debt to society.

I see this disconnect firsthand. In our local community, employers regularly tell us they have open positions they cannot fill, while individuals who are qualified, dependable, and eager to work are turned away because of a background check. These are parents trying to support their families, stabilize their housing, and contribute to their communities—but a past mistake continues to follow them, sometimes decades later.

Clean Slate helps address this gap by getting government out of the way. By automatically clearing eligible records after a period of time, these bills remove unnecessary barriers to employment without compromising public safety. They allow people who have done what the system asked of them to truly move forward.

The economic impact of failing to do this is significant. It is estimated that the underemployment of formerly incarcerated job seekers costs the U.S. economy more than \$78 billion annually. Missouri cannot afford to leave willing workers on the sidelines—especially when businesses are urgently looking for employees.

From an employer perspective, second-chance hiring works. Research shows that second-chance employees are often more loyal and have lower turnover rates than other workers, which significantly reduces recruitment and training costs. For Missouri employers already stretched thin, this is a practical and proven workforce solution.

Most importantly, Clean Slate ensures that we stop punishing people long after they have paid their debt. HB 2747 and HB 2047 promote fairness, strengthen our workforce, and support Missouri families and communities.

**I respectfully urge you to support these bills and vote yes.
Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Ahkeya Howard**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AJ CHO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 3:08 AM
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I support this bill for the following reasons:

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.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNE LITWIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 9:02 PM	
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I support HB 2047 because Clean Slate makes good business sense. We need to rebuild our workforce in Missouri, and previously incarcerated people who are given a second chance make good employees. We also need to stop punishing people who have served their time.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY N WINSLOW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 6:56 PM
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I support the automatic expungement of eligible criminal records.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AWESTA SARKASH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY		TITLE: SENIOR PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20005
EMAIL: heather@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:03 PM	
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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 2747 and 2047), 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 Missouri and 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. The 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 these 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, in turn, would benefit small businesses in their efforts to hire and recruit employees. Passing Clean Slate would allow employers – big and small – to tap 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% 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, strengthening the economy, and making Missouri a better place to live and work. Small Business Majority urges the legislature to pass Clean Slate (HB 2747 and HB 2047).

**Sincerely,
Awesta Sarkash
Senior Public Policy Director
Small Business Majority**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BASIA SKUDRZYK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 12:28 PM
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As a system impacted person, I still face the realities and burdens of not being providing opportunities in the workforce, despite taking full responsibility and demonstrating competency for the roles. I've been provided job opportunities by leaders in the organizations that have supported me, but unfortunately, the HR process still rescinds my offers post employment offer. Providing people with opportunity to move forward in their life and demonstrate successful models of reentry allows everyone to win - we create economic mobility in our state, our country, and most importantly, create stability which allows that person to take care of their family, community, and themselves. We're the show-me-state and we should show how to create systems and environments that allow people to receive fullest potential.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMELLIA PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-726-9475	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 94			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: cpeterson@afphq.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:27 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARENCE LATRELL STATION		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 8:41 PM	
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Hello, my name is Latrell Stanton and I work with people impacted by criminal records. If there is one thing I want to say it's that people that are seeking expungement are the people that have made the decision to move forward with a better way of life. People that plan to continue with a criminal lifestyle do not spend time and money seeking an expungement. I would just ask that we let those that want to do better, do better.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CURT WICHMER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: wichmerc@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:28 AM

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Automatic expungement allows prior offenders who've demonstrated a low likelihood of reoffending an opportunity to reintegrate into law-abiding society. It rewards good behavior and discourages ex-convicts from offending again after serving their sentence. For that reason the MCC supports.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA JOCELYN BAUER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 8:26 PM	

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Clean Slate will help our communities, encourage more people to re-join the Missouri workforce, benefitting businesses, and result in increased revenue for the State of Missouri. The law-enforcement community recommends limiting Clean Slate only apply to non-violent felons who have served their sentences, or to those, having completed probation periods appropriately. There are citizens who were arrested, but never tried or given hearings, who were accused of crimes, with arrest records because of inappropriately closed warrants, failures of law enforcement agencies to properly investigate alleged crimes, people who were harassed by their accusers, whose involvement in wrong-doing was not substantiated, law-enforcement failing to. Close out files due to impending retirement, these bills should also include a means for the State to rectify such inadvertent record errors.. When a hard-working person is accused of an un-proven crimes, and arrested, that arrest records will follow them, unjustly, until it is expunged. Those who have committed actual crimes, who have received trials and whose Due Process Rights have been adequately provided have limited employment options currently. Their need to seek employment in legitimate businesses iexists, but the current laws do not facilitate that occurring. As non-violent offenders, who have served their sentences there needs to be a more effective means for such people to become re-employed. There may be some reasonable exceptions, depending upon the nature of an offense. Incarceration is costing the U S economy over \$78 Billion , annually! Such restriction of employment opportunities as a felony record might cause, may Be prejudicial, and unjustifiable in many instances. The under employment that results impoverishes families, more, and might be Causing recidivism, due to the limitations that results, unnecessarily. There are stereotypes that do not match reality involved with some criminal records. Employees provided with reasonable economic opportunities, following incarceration prove to be dedicated workers willing to serve their employer’s needs. effectively. That results in lower turnover-over rates, and lower recruitment and training expenses, for employers., and lower costs for the State, when formerly incarcerated people can afford, food, clothing, housing, and transportation, can support their families adequately, and are able to resume productive lives. Those who were arrested, but not brought to trial, unjustly must continue dealing with Undeserved, or inaccurate arrest records when seeking employment, to their detriment.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE MEEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-234-0342	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--MISSOURI; NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--COLUMBIA AREA		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 109 N. KEENE ST.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: columbiamonow@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 1:06 PM	
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We support HB 2047 because many Missourians are held back from getting hired by past criminal records. Allowing people who have served their time to achieve gainful employment has been shown to reduce recidivism. Refusing to expunge records simply punishes people who have already paid their debt to society and prevents them from becoming productive members of that society. Also, second chance employees directly benefit employers by being generally more loyal and reduce training costs due to less frequent turnover rates. HB 2047 will definitely benefit Missourians, and we urge your support for it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. KETOSHA HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 6:14 PM	
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Greetings,

My name is Dr. Ketosha Harris. I hold a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Master's of Education Degree in Adult Education and Higher Education Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminology from the University of St Louis Missouri. I have over 20 plus years of civil service. Approximately, fifteen years in Law Enforcement and providing other community based services. I was voted by the Sociology Department as the top 60 outstanding Alumni and have served on various influential committees and boards. I am here today because outside of my academic accomplishments and my community service experience, I carry a heavy yoke around my neck everyday. A yoke that has impacted me for about eighteen years. This invisible yoke was placed on me back in 2011, being hotline by a school district and having interaction with Missouri Children's Division. There were allegations and a preponderance of evidence that stated that I physically abused my son. This nightmare began with me disciplining my son for acting out in class. The unimaginable began to occur in my life. At the time I had a criminal and civil case. As a single mother and student, I endured 8 months of interrogation and separation from my son. Once I adhered to all the state requirements from Children's Division, my son was restored to my custody. I was charged with Child Abuse, without a conviction. And received 3 yrs of probation and released after about a year in a half. At the time I did not know my name would be placed on the Children's Division Child Abuse Registry. However, the nightmare didn't stop. I grew from the situation and matriculated academically in every aspect of my life. However, I soon discovered my educational experience and commitment to community was null and void to the CAN Review Board in expulsion of my name sitting on the child abuse registry. This has severely impacted my career and quality of life. It disqualifies me from utilizing my degrees, holding positions in education and prohibits me from economically advancing. As a minister, advocate and educator, I believe in the power of redemption. However, redemption has yet to come for others and myself who are grossly affected by the intersectionality of past criminal records and the registry. Therefore, when we discuss expungement, we must have conversations about discarding names on the Missouri Registry. Especially, names that bear no conviction. In closing, I am standing in complete solidarity with my fellow constituents in passing legislation for Clean Slate. Everyone deserves a second chance and everyone deserves redemption! Thanks again for your time and attention this morning.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 4:02 PM

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Underemployment of formerly incarcerated job seekers costs the US economy more than \$78 billion annually. When given employment they are more loyal and have lower turnover rates than other employees which will lead to a reduction in training costs.

Allowing the formerly incarcerated find good employment keeps them off public assistance. They've paid their debt now let's help desperate employers fill those vacant positions.

Clean slate makes good business sense, it will help rebuild our workforce and drive economic growth.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLIOT ARCHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 4:08 PM	

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Our country's criminal justice system was created and implemented long before the Internet became integral within our society. It was designed both to punish and rehabilitate people who break the law, serving as a deterrent for illegal activities and offering corrective supports for those who broke the law out of desperation, due to mental illness or substance use disorders, 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 equal to the level of harm caused to the community.

This system was not designed for punishing people for the rest of their lives. Due to the importance of the Internet, individuals with past criminal records struggle to secure adequate employment and housing due to background checks. 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 in 3 in 5 colleges and universities use background checks in admissions. People with criminal records are 50 to 63 percent less likely to receive a job offer, leading to unemployment, homelessness, poverty, and recidivism. This causes ripple effects extending beyond the individual, impacting families, communities, and American society. Clean Slate is very important ensuring punishments fit the crime and have a clear end date. It prevents worker shortages and second change employees are generally more loyal and have lower turnover rates.

In 2012, Missouri begun recognizing unintended consequences that criminal records have on individuals and communities and implemented an expungement process allowing individuals to seal records from public view, while remaining visible for law enforcement. However, this process is costly and complex. Less than one percent of Missourians eligible for expungement can actually access those expungements.

Automating the process makes it accessible for all Missourians. Clean Slate legislation makes good business sense, significantly reduces recidivism, and improves our communities.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: FRED DREILING		PHONE NUMBER: 816-806-6335	
REPRESENTING: BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION A CHAPTER OF THE AGC		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 1025 W 64TH TERR			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL: freddreilingllc@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 4:28 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE HUEBBE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SUGARBOT SWEET SHOP AND SUGARBOT CREAMERY		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 433 JACKSON ST			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63301
EMAIL: nicole@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 3:49 PM	
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Thank you Mister Chair, and members of the committee.

My name is Jackie Huebbe and I'm the proud owner of two storefronts in St. Charles: SugarBot Sweet Shop and SugarBot Creamery. Last session I testified in support of this legislation as a business owner and life-long Missourian. Today, I'm here once again in continued support of Clean Slate Missouri, HB 2747 and HB 2047.

I started SugarBot in 2012 with a desire to control the products I made and enable myself to do business in a way that aligned with my personal values. In 14 years of business ownership, I've grown and supported the community through acquisition of two other small businesses, and have purchased, fully rehabbed, and continued to maintain both historic buildings as homes to my business.

In 2024, 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 environmental & community impact, innovation, and employment programs. Last year, SugarBot was selected to participate in the Schnucks Springboard & UMSL Anchor cohorts. I am deeply proud of the work I have done, 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 believes in empowering folks to do better for not just the ones they love, but also for themselves, and we have seen the positive impact that mindset has on our business and our community. 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 that has made a mistake they regret – and then learned from. Humans deserve second chances.

I don't say these things in a hypothetical sense. At SugarBot, 100% of our team has a systemic barrier to employment. We actively employ folks with felony convictions, as well as those who have grown up in the prison pipelines that continue to exist in Missouri and beyond.

In my prior testimony, I shared details of our first previously incarcerated employee, who was released in 2020 after serving 36 years in prison. I am happy to share that he is still with us today, and continues to be an asset to our business. We 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. On several occasions, I've witnessed folks who are forced to decline our offer due to housing or transportation limitations, even though many live within a short 15 minute drive of my businesses.

Beyond employment, I continue to spend time as a mentor for those participating in SLU'S Transformative Workforce Academy with job coaching, skill building, and resume writing. I am dedicated to supporting this population and continue 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 I am able to employ, it will help thousands of individuals find meaningful employment in our state. Additionally, it would help those we are able to employ accept future positions outside of SugarBot with even higher wages and growth than we are able to offer once their records are expunged.

Expungement is not a gift - it has been earned by folks who are doing the work in their day to day lives. This systemic change is essential to allow individuals with old criminal records to fully re-enter society with dignity and pride.

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.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JARED HANKINSON		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 428 EAST CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-775-3261	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EPIPHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST		TITLE: CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 2910 LEMP AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: jmo.mott.oxford@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 4:59 PM	
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The Prison Ministry Team at Epiphany United Church of Christ in St. Louis City would like to go on record in support of this Clean Slate expungement legislation, and we thank the sponsor for bringing this bill forward. Currently many formerly incarcerated individuals experience life-long punishment for their crimes, even after they have served their full sentences. Online searches turn up records of criminal charges and incarcerations. Sometimes these past events are used as justification not to hire an individual, rent to them, or allow them into educational programs. Our neighbors who have paid their debt to society deserve the chance to make progress through employment, education, and healthy housing options. Let us remove barriers that currently stand in their way.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: JULIE HUGUNIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 8:11 PM	

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Testimony in Support of Clean Slate Legislation (HB 2747 & HB 2047)

My name is Julie Hugunin , and I am here today in support of the Clean Slate legislation.

For over 15 years, I struggled with depression, epilepsy and a binge drinking disorder. In 2017, during one of the lowest points of my life, I was charged with a felony DUI. That moment does not define who I am — but it has defined nearly every opportunity I have had since.

After that charge, I left an abusive relationship. I sought counseling. I quit drinking entirely. I took accountability for my actions and changed my life. I paid thousands of dollars in fines and fees, completed every required class, and served 60 days in a women’s correctional facility. I also lost my right to drive for 10 years, which also makes it extremely difficult to obtain employment in any field that pays a decent salary.

While incarcerated, I witnessed a woman give birth on the floor of her cell. I witnessed women beating one another multiple times throughout the days. I was housed with individuals convicted of child abuse and homicide. I saw firsthand how broken and traumatizing our system can be — and how easily people become invisible once they are labeled a “felon.”

I have multiple college degrees. I have one degree specifically in Education. I am highly qualified for many teaching positions. I want to work, to contribute, to support myself fully and live with dignity. But because of one charge from six years ago, I am consistently denied employment. I am judged before I am known. My reputation is reduced to a single word on a background check.

I am no longer the person I was in the previous years — but the system treats me as if growth, healing, and accountability do not matter.

The shame I carry will always be part of my story. But the inability to move forward should not be a life sentence. Rehabilitation should mean something. Change should count for something.

Clean Slate is not about erasing responsibility. It is about recognizing transformation. It is about allowing people who have done the work — who have paid their debt, sought help, and rebuilt their lives — the chance to participate fully in society again.

I am not asking for special treatment. I am asking for a fair chance.

Because when people are locked out of opportunity forever, we don't create safer communities — we create hopeless ones.

It would have been very easy for me to stay in a place of despair, but I chose to continue improving my life so I could potentially help others along the way.

Clean Slate gives people like me the chance to prove that our worst moment does not have to be our final chapter.

Thank you for listening to my story and for considering legislation that believes in second chances.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: KAREN COULSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 4:16 PM	
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I support this bill for the following reasons:

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
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: KATHRYN WOODARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 4:40 PM	
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I believe it is in the best interest of Missouri businesses to have this legislation passed. There is a shortage of qualified workers.. This shortage could be solved by qualified formerly incarcerated people.



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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: KELI HOUSTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:33 AM	

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Transparency matters. Adherence to the principles of both the state and federal Constitutions are vital. Democracy dies in darkness.



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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLI VAN DOREN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-256-7662	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LOVE COLUMBIA		TITLE: COACHING PROGRAMS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 1209 BRADSHAW AVENUE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: kelliv@lovecolumbia.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 6:24 AM	
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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. Through my work with individuals at Love Columbia, I see firsthand the barriers that people face as they try to move ahead. There are not resources to deal with a complicated legal procedure and applying this across the board would eliminate the inequity of only allowing those with money to hire a lawyer to be expunged.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026
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: KEVIN WALSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

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 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: KEVIN WALSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 6:36 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: LAURA PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 9:45 AM	
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Many Missouri citizens cannot get a job and/or cannot get an apartment because of a criminal record, even though they have served their time and learned their lesson. How can we prevent them from repeating their mistakes when they can't find a bed for themselves or their kids, when they can't feed themselves or their kids because no one will give them a job? These are people who are not killers, they are not abusers. These are people who made foolish, reckless decisions and want to be better. Give them a chance.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-306-8945
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65110
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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 CLARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 8:48 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support clean slate legislation because it makes good business sense, will help rebuild our workforce and communities post-pandemic, and drive inclusive economic growth. Between 60-75% of formerly incarcerated individuals are unemployed one year after coming out of prison. If they are unemployed, they are way more likely to return to prison. 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. 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. I urge you to support clean slate legislation.



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: MELINDA MOELLERING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 2:32 PM	
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Those who have done their time have already paid their debt to society and there is no reason to further punish them. Adding unnecessary barriers only serves to demoralize them and makes it harder to help them become productive members of society.



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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MEREDITH RATAJ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-977-5498	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMATIVE WORKFORCE ACADEMY		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3840 LINDELL BLVD.			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: meredith.rataj@slu.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:29 AM
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Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Saint Louis University’s Transformative Workforce Academy (SLU TWA). SLU TWA is a statewide initiative dedicated to enhancing public safety while expanding economic mobility for justice-involved Missourians by preparing and connecting them with fair chance employers who are committed to evaluating talent rather than past mistakes. Our work spans pre-release services in correctional facilities, individualized job coaching, resume and skills development, and partnerships with employers across Missouri who need workers and are eager to hire qualified, motivated candidates. SLU TWA has helps bridge the gap between Missouri’s workforce needs and the often-overlooked talent of justice-involved jobseekers.

SLU TWA sees firsthand that Clean Slate makes good business sense. Across Missouri, employers in manufacturing, logistics, food service, hospitality, health care support, and the trades continue to experience persistent workforce shortages. These shortages, intensified by the pandemic, have slowed business growth and increased recruitment costs. Clean Slate policies would help rebuild our workforce and communities by allowing more Missourians who are already legally eligible for expungement to participate fully in our economy through employment in these industries.

For the employers we work with at SLU TWA, this is not an abstract policy issue. Clean Slate would immediately expand the pool of job-ready candidates and help drive economic growth in every region of the state. Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across the state. This need is echoed to SLU TWA by our employer partners, who consistently report difficulty finding reliable talent. Clean Slate legislation is a pragmatic solution to a problem they face daily.

More than 1.9 million Missourians face barriers to employment, housing, and education because of a criminal record, even though many are already eligible for expungement under current law. Yet only about 1% obtain one, largely because the process is expensive and difficult to navigate. Clean Slate legislation removes these unnecessary barriers by automating expungement for eligible offenses, ensuring that opportunity depends on rehabilitation and not access to lawyers or filing fees.

Automated expungement gets the government out of the way of Missourians who have done their time, completed their sentences, demonstrated rehabilitation, and want nothing more than to work, provide

for their families, and contribute to their communities. For SLU TWA participants, this shift is transformational. Many have already secured skills, training, and employer interest—yet a decades-old record stops the process cold. Clean Slate removes this unnecessary bottleneck.

A past criminal record—often for a low-level, nonviolent offense—can block housing applications, eliminate college or training opportunities, and shut qualified applicants out of jobs indefinitely. Many SLU TWA participants have remained crime-free for years, yet cannot secure stable employment simply because an old record continues to appear in background checks. Clean Slate legislation ensures that we finally stop punishing people who have already paid their debt to society. Bipartisan proposals such as HB 2047 could provide relief to more than half a million Missourians whose minor arrest and conviction records would be sealed under these policies.

SLU TWA supports Clean Slate because we see every day how much talent, commitment, and potential exists among justice-involved Missourians and how often outdated records block their path. Clean Slate is good for business, good for families, and good for Missouri's economy. It will strengthen our workforce, reduce barriers for people who have already earned a second chance, and provide employers with access to motivated, job-ready talent.

On behalf of SLU TWA, I respectfully urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate legislation this session.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ML SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-814-2910	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 68415 CREST AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY LITZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 1:08 PM

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Automatically expunging records of non-violent crimes makes good business sense. The current system is so complex that most eligible individuals can't navigate it, and changing that will help rebuild our workforce and communities post-pandemic, and contribute to economic growth.

Missouri employers are desperate to fill positions left open by worker shortages across our state. We must get government out of the way of Missourians who have done their time and want to find work and provide for their families.

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.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 10:48 PM
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I am strongly in favor of this bill and ask you to give it your active support. Once a person has completed their sentence and is released back into the community, we are all wanting them to become "productive member of society". This generally requires, at a minimum, a job and housing. Options for both of these are frequently limited by that person's record. It is important to remember that the most heinous offenses will not be eligible for expungement (ex. violent offences). It seems that this bill has bipartisan support and could make a big difference in helping people get a chance to build a better life and help Missouri's economy.
Please vote to support this bill and give this group a chance. Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE BANISTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS INITIATIVE FOR JUSTICE		TITLE: DIRECTOR, POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 1050 30TH ST NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20007
EMAIL: nicole@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:28 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 27, 2026

Re: HB 2747 and HB 2047, 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 2747 and HB 2047 (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 2747 and HB 2047.

**Nicole Banister
Director, Policy and Advocacy
Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ)
nicole@rbij.org**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: PATRICIA ANN PREWITT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 1:27 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 25, 2026

Another Case for the Clean Slate legislation:

The Board of Probation and Parole and the Governor are constantly flooded with clemency applications from felons seeking to remove their criminal records, primarily for employment and housing reasons. These applications require hours of state time and resources to process. When Gov. Parson was in office, he regularly announced the number of pardons he granted to these individuals. When I was incarcerated at WERDCC, the woman who managed the prison laundry received a pardon. She told me that she had overdrawn her bank account during a difficult time in her first marriage in the 80s. Naturally, she wanted that mistake to be erased from her otherwise clean record. She never served time in prison. She was on probation nearly 40 years ago.

Under the current proposed Clean Slate legislation, she would not have to hire a lawyer and wait years for a governor to grant a commutation. The state government would not have to waste time and taxpayers' money on research. A simple algorithm would have eliminated this small error from her past.

I spent nearly 40 years in prison for a crime I didn't commit, and during those years, I saw firsthand the destruction caused by a minor criminal record. I urge this General Assembly to recognize the benefits of the Clean Slate bill.

Sincerely,
 Patricia Prewitt
 1807 Blackfoot Ct
 Greenwood, MO 64034
 patriciaprewitt@yahoo.com
 913-329-2682



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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: PATRICIA BERGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 1:49 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Patty Berger and I offer my written testimony in support of HB 2747 sponsored by Rep. Davidson and HB 2047 sponsored by Rep. Terry.

I ask you to imagine the worst thing you've ever done. Maybe you didn't get caught. If you were caught, imagine for the rest of your life you are connected to that decision. It is the legal record and the law allows others the opportunity to constantly judge and remind you that you are not worthy of the same civil rights granted to others.

As a 68 year old formerly incarcerated woman who will always be convicted of 18 felonies in the State of Missouri, I have had to overcome many extra obstacles throughout my life. After being sent to prison 11 times, I have been out of the MO DOC and working with others for the past 25 years. I am now a social worker, mother of two adult children and five grandchildren. My son is a Captain with the St. Louis Fire Department. My daughter lives and works in Washington DC. They have not been convicted of anything.

Although I have had no arrests or convictions since 2001, my criminal record is always assessable to anyone who wants to know about me. My current address appears on MO Case.net because of that record. I am unable to rent without my record being considered. I am fortunate enough to live in a house owned by my son. Living there allows me an opportunity to live in my community with respect and dignity. But I really don't have privacy. Every bad choice I've ever made due to trauma and an untreated drug addiction is recorded and open to public scrutiny. Although my convictions are on the expungement list, my record is not eligible because of the number of convictions I have. Having one's record expunged gives that person a real second chance.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Patty Berger



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: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:58 AM
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I am in full support of this bill.



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: RICHARD JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 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 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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 REFORM COMMITTEE	
ADDRESS: 1 NEW BALLAS PLACE, APT. 504			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: rakasko@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 4:44 PM	
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Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

January 27, 2026

To: Chairwoman Gallick and Members, House Economic Development Committee
 Re: HB 2747 and HB 2047

Honorable Chair and Members of the Economic Development Committee:

Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, a nonpartisan organization of more than 300 St. Louis area members with some 4500 social media subscribers, provides education and advocacy on issues of significant social and economic concern. Clean Slate initiatives, benefiting formerly incarcerated people, communities, employers and the economy, have been a priority for Women's Voices for the past four years.

With tight labor markets, employers cannot find enough workers to meet their needs. At the same time, people returning to our communities face obstacles to employment and housing because of a criminal record, no matter how minor. The heavy baggage of a criminal record follows formerly incarcerated people for a lifetime in the absence of an expungement.

Although Missouri has laws providing for expunging certain criminal records, only about 1% of those eligible for expungement receive relief. Those eligible often have difficulty navigating and paying for 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 nor their families and reduces the pool of prospective employees that employers can practically and cost-effectively consider.

Moreover, 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.

Since 2018 thirteen states, recognizing that 25% to 40% of their adult populations were hindered from jobs and housing by criminal records, have enacted Clean Slate legislation with wide bipartisan

support. From rural to urban and red to blue states. These 13 states have enacted Clean Slate Initiatives: Pennsylvania, Utah, New Jersey, Connecticut, Michigan, Delaware, Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, and Illinois. If they can enact and successfully implement Clean Slate surely so can The SHOW ME state!

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 low-cost economic investment across the state, especially in areas most in need of growth, and where there were no public safety concerns.

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.**

We are grateful to Representative Davidson for introducing House Bill 2747 and to Representative Terry for introducing House Bill 2047. 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 Law will provide both help and hope to the half-million Missourians who are currently eligible for record expungement and benefit our communities and the state economy. It is also the right and fair thing to do.

We thank you for your time and request your support on House Bills 2747 and 2047.

Respectfully,

**Rochelle Kaskowitz and Karen Coulson, Co-Chairs, Criminal Legal System Reform Committee
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice
698 West Lockwood Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119
Womensvoicesraised.org
314-730-0471**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026
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: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, I would like to express our support for HB 2047 and HB 2747. The ACLU of Missouri works in the courts, legislature, and communities across the state to defend and preserve the civil liberties of Missourians.

HB 2047 and HB 2747 aim to update and strengthen the current process for record expungement to ensure every eligible Missourian receives the second chance they deserve. By automating record expungement, HB 2047 and HB 2747, known as Clean Slate legislation, will eliminate significant barriers people face under the current petition-based process. Currently, due to time and cost burdens, only a small fraction of Missourians are able to achieve record sealing – despite being eligible and completing all requirements.

The lasting impacts of a criminal record extend far beyond time served and enact numerous hurdles to accessing housing, education, and employment opportunities. Research shows that when people can access stable housing, further their education, and maintain employment, returning citizens can participate more fully in their communities and are less likely to recidivate—in turn, making the fabric of Missouri stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

For these reasons, and to support the dignity of all Missourians, the ACLU of Missouri urges you to vote yes on HB 2047 and HB 2747.



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: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 11:52 AM

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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.

This is a step toward justice, stronger communities, and a more robust Missouri economy.



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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT TATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. CHARLES REGIONAL CHAMBER		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63304
EMAIL: heather@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chair Gallick, Vice-Chair Thompson, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development,

On behalf of the St. Charles Regional Chamber, I respectfully write in support of HB 2747 and HB 2047, collectively known as Clean Slate Missouri. This legislation would automatically clear certain old criminal records for individuals who have remained crime-free, reducing unnecessary barriers to employment and strengthening Missouri’s workforce and economy.

Founded in 1939, the St. Charles Regional Chamber is the region’s largest business association, representing 1,395 member businesses throughout the St. Charles County region. Our mission is to advocate for the business community by developing opportunities and partnerships that strengthen the economic prosperity and long-term sustainability of our region. That mission compels us to support policies that expand workforce participation, enhance public safety, and promote economic growth.

Clean Slate Missouri is also a priority of the St. Charles County Chamber Policy Coalition, a collaborative effort that includes the St. Charles Regional Chamber, the O’Fallon Chamber of Commerce & Industries, and the Western St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce. Together, our organizations represent a broad cross-section of employers who are directly impacted by Missouri’s ongoing workforce challenges.

Employers in our region and across the state continue to face significant labor shortages. Missouri currently has more than 167,000 open jobs, yet too many capable individuals remain sidelined from the workforce. Nearly two million Missouri adults are restricted from employment opportunities due to an old criminal record. While record-sealing options exist, the current process is complex, costly, and inaccessible—resulting in only about one percent of eligible individuals successfully completing it. These barriers unnecessarily limit our workforce and impose real costs on employers, communities, and the state’s economy.

HB 2747 and HB 2047 would remove these burdensome obstacles while maintaining public safety. Research consistently shows that access to stable employment is one of the strongest predictors of reduced recidivism. Individuals who have their records sealed are less likely to reoffend than the general population, making Clean Slate a policy that supports both economic vitality and safer communities. By reducing barriers to employment, Missouri employers can tap into a pool of skilled, motivated workers who are ready to contribute.

The economic benefits are substantial. Clean Slate would expand the available workforce, help employers fill critical positions, and reduce reliance on public assistance programs. The Missouri Budget Project estimates that Clean Slate could generate \$2.9 billion annually in economic impact.

These are benefits Missouri's employers—and taxpayers—cannot afford to overlook. Missourians deserve commonsense legislation that supports growth, creates opportunity, and improves quality of life. Clean Slate Missouri accomplishes all three. On behalf of the St. Charles Regional Chamber and the employers we represent, I respectfully encourage the House Committee on Economic Development to support and advance HB 2747 and HB 2047. Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to Missouri's economic future.

**Sincerely,
Scott Tate
President & CEO
St. Charles Regional Chamber**



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		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156
REPRESENTING: MO NAACP		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JC	STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 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 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026	
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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: SUSAN FITZGIBBON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 1:45 PM	
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I am writing in support of legislation designed to offer a Clean Slate to our neighbors with criminal records who are eligible for expungement but are unable to access it. Unfortunately, one in three Missourians has a criminal record. Automating the record clearing process is good for our community and our neighbors.

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 this 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 "cleaning" 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, with the passage of Clean Slate legislation, 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.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 11:43 PM	
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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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN HENDERSON MOORE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-268-6924	
REPRESENTING: JEDUNN		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 630 BOLIVAR ST SUITE 201			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: sbhenderson@polsinelli.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 7:41 AM	
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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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI MERCADO		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 202 S JOHN Q HAMMONS PARKWAY			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65806
EMAIL: tmercado@springfieldchamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 1:43 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chairwoman Gallick and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development.

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 2047, sponsored by Representative Terry.

This legislation would establish a clear, automated process for expungement of certain criminal records, removing unnecessary barriers to employment while maintaining appropriate safeguards for public safety and the justice system.

With an estimated 1.9 million Missourians carrying some form of a criminal record, even modest improvements in access to employment can have a meaningful impact on Missouri’s workforce. Many individuals continue to face obstacles long after completing their sentences, limiting access to jobs, occupational licensing, housing, and education and contributing to ongoing workforce shortages across the state.

House Bill 2047 addresses these challenges by allowing eligible records to be expunged automatically after a defined period of law-abiding behavior. This technology-driven approach reduces administrative burdens, improves consistency across jurisdictions, and ensures relief is applied fairly and efficiently, without compromising accountability or victim protections.

From a business perspective, access to talent remains one of the most significant challenges facing employers. Record clearance is associated with higher employment rates and increased earnings, helping individuals reenter the workforce while allowing businesses to recruit from a broader, underutilized talent pool. House Bill 2047 supports this workforce participation while also providing clarity and liability protections for employers who make good-faith hiring decisions, ensuring greater confidence and predictability in the hiring process.

House Bill 2047 represents a practical, pro-workforce policy that supports Missouri’s economic growth and a stronger labor force statewide. We respectfully encourage your support.

Sincerely,??

Matt Morrow??
President and CEO
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce??
202 S John Q Hammons Parkway??
Springfield, MO 65806



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026
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: VALERIE BYRNES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS:		
CITY: INDEPENDENCE	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65050
EMAIL: heather@rbij.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 5:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

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 voice support for Clean Slate Missouri (HB 2747 and HB 2047) which would automatically clear old criminal records for individuals who remain crime-free.

In 2024, I bylined a 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.

It is believed 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.

Valerie Byrnes
President
Independence Chamber of Commerce



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: VICTORIA BARSHIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 10:18 AM
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Ultimately what we want when someone is released from prison is for them to become a contributing, upstanding citizen. This bill makes it a bit easier for folks to do just that, reducing recidivism. I **SUPPORT** this bill!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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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, SUPREME COURT OF MIS	
ADDRESS: 207 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: eric.jennings@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 10:32 PM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: SARA SCHUETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 240 EAST HIGH ST, STE. 300			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: sara@matanet.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 9:24 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
We are opposed to the language in 610.143.5 granting immunity to employers and others.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 4:22 PM	

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

I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2047.

I want to be clear at the outset: my opposition is not rooted in hostility to rehabilitation, second chances, or restoration.

Those values matter deeply. My concern is not the goal of this bill, but the mechanism it creates — and the long-term power it concentrates in systems that have repeatedly demonstrated an inability to act consistently in good faith.

House Bill 2047 replaces individualized judicial review with large-scale automated expungement administered through multiple agencies, discretionary prosecutorial vetoes, and opaque data systems.

History teaches us that when mercy is automated, it quickly becomes conditional, uneven, and subject to abuse — particularly when political leadership, enforcement priorities, or budgetary pressures change.

This bill creates several structural risks:

First, automation at scale invites error without meaningful recourse. Bulk record-closing decisions will inevitably misclassify cases, overlook nuance, or rely on incomplete data. The bill provides no robust, accessible mechanism for individuals to challenge erroneous determinations or improper reinstatements once the system acts.

Second, the bill grants prosecuting agencies broad discretionary authority to block expungement without clear, uniform standards. Discretion without transparency or accountability is not a safeguard — it is a vulnerability. It opens the door to inconsistent application across jurisdictions, political influence, and selective enforcement that undermines equal protection.

Third, the retention of “nonpublic” expunged records for extensive future use contradicts the bill’s stated purpose. If expunged convictions may still be used for charging decisions, sentencing enhancements, employment exclusions, and investigative leverage, then expungement becomes largely symbolic rather than restorative. It risks misleading the public into believing relief has been granted when, in practice, the state retains nearly all of its punitive power.

Fourth, the bill’s reinstatement provisions allow the state to resurrect expunged convictions based on

later determinations — including subjective assessments of “good-faith” restitution efforts. This creates uncertainty and instability for individuals who are told their records are cleared, only to discover later that relief was provisional.

Justice should not operate on revocable grace.

Finally, this legislation rests on the assumption that future administrations will administer this system with restraint, fairness, and adequate oversight.

Missouri’s recent history gives little reason for such confidence.

Systems built with good intentions are often later used in ways their authors never anticipated — especially when enforcement authority is centralized and insulated from public scrutiny.

Justice that depends on discretion rather than rights is fragile. Mercy that can be quietly withdrawn is not mercy at all.

If the General Assembly wishes to expand expungement access, it should do so through narrowly tailored reforms that preserve individualized judicial review, clear eligibility standards, and meaningful due-process protections — not through automated systems that trade human judgment for bureaucratic convenience.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2047		DATE: 1/27/2026
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: SHAWN RHOADS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CIRCUIT ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 802 E MAIN		
CITY: PRINCETON		STATE: MO
		ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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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: SHAWN RHOADS		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SHERIFFS UNITED		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: BUSINESS HWY 50			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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