Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act: S211 (Myrie) / A1029 (Cruz)

March 2023

1. Business
2. Labor
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4. Faith
5. Policy, Advocacy, and Community Groups
Business Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act
Indeed supports Clean Slate legislation (S. 7551A (Myrie) / A. 1029C (Cruz)) and urges the Senate and Assembly to pass it this session and Governor Hochul to sign it into law. Clean Slate will open up employment opportunities and expand the talent pool, benefiting workers, employers, and the New York economy.

Indeed’s mission is to help people get jobs. As the world’s number one job site and leading hiring platform, with over 300 million unique visitors every month, we put job seekers first, giving them free access to search for jobs, post resumes, and research companies. Every day, we connect millions of people to new opportunities.

We are dedicated to addressing bias and barriers to employment. We strive to make a positive impact on society by connecting people to better work to create better lives. In support of our mission, we are focused on helping 30 million job seekers facing barriers get jobs by 2030. We believe advancing opportunities for people with criminal records is imperative to reaching this goal. For example, to make it easier to find the right opportunity, Indeed has added a “fair chance” filter. This helps job seekers find employers who are open to hiring people who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.

In addition, we’ve invested in record sealing services through our Essentials to Work program, which provides critical resources to job seekers who need them most. We know that record sealing has a positive impact on wages and employment. Yet, there are deep inefficiencies and inequities in systems that require individuals to petition for relief.

The Clean Slate legislation offers a common sense solution to the state’s current complex and costly record sealing system that is failing millions. It is estimated that 2.3 million New Yorkers have a criminal record, but very few of them are eligible to have their records sealed or have the ability to do so through the existing process. This results in a significant barrier to employment.
Clean Slate will open up a pool of talented workers for New York businesses, which is especially important in today’s tight labor market. At the same time, Clean Slate will provide positive impacts on workers as well as their families and communities. In New York City alone, more than half a million people could see an estimated $2.4 billion increase in wages through passage of the Clean Slate bill. Further, research shows having a job helps reduce recidivism, positively impacting society.

Clean Slate is a sensible reform. Indeed urges the legislature to pass S. 7551A (Myrie) / A. 1029C (Cruz) and Governor Hochul to sign it into law.
April 20, 2023

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.211-A (Myrie) / A.1029-A (Cruz)

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law and the correction law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions.

Con Edison supports this bill, which would automatically seal criminal records after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life. The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records.

As a major New York employer, Con Edison has first-hand knowledge of the labor shortage facing New York. Criminal records impact our workforce, customers, and communities. There are more than 2.3 million New Yorkers that have a criminal record and having a criminal record blocks individuals from accessing employment, among other things. Indeed, research has shown that job applicants without criminal records were 60% more likely to receive a job callback from an employer. Removing obstacles to employment through passing the Clean Slate Act and including justice-involved individuals in the talent pipeline can help increase the workforce.

The Clean Slate Act will also help boost the economy. A study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with conviction records. By expanding opportunity, the Clean Slate Act can help expand the state’s workforce and increase wages. For example, within two years of expunging an individual’s criminal record under Michigan law, research showed that an individual was 11% more likely to have a job and earned nearly 20% more in wages.

Con Edison is committed to advancing racial equity, addressing social injustice, and improving societal well-being. And as part of our commitment, Con Edison supports state efforts to enact and implement automatic record sealing to increase economic opportunity, ensure greater racial equity and improve the lives of those living in our communities.

For these reasons, we urge that this bill be approved.
Legislative Memorandum from:

David Lamendola
Director
Government Affairs
New York and Connecticut

SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION
S211/A1029 (Senator Myrie & Assemblywoman Cruz)
In Senate Codes Committee
In Assembly Codes Committee

This legislation can provide a fresh start for thousands of New Yorkers by removing barriers for those who have served their sentences and provide them the opportunity to thrive. This is more important than ever in the wake of the COVID pandemic to ensure that New Yorkers with criminal records aren't left behind as the economy reopens. In the era of worker shortages and “the Great Resignation,” Clean Slate legislation also combats workforce shortages by reducing obstacles people face as they seek employment after incarceration.

Under the Clean Slate Act, New Yorkers will be eligible to have conviction records automatically sealed 3 years from sentencing for misdemeanors and 7 years from sentencing for felonies, not including time incarcerated. These timeframes are carefully calibrated to allow people with conviction records to move forward with their lives and access jobs, housing, and higher education. To be eligible for automatic sealing relief, individuals must have completed probation, parole or post-release supervision, and cannot have incurred any new convictions or pending charges during the three- or seven-year waiting period. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic, businesses are adapting to economic conditions and resuming their search for skilled workers. By reducing barriers to employment for those with criminal records we will be able to get more people back to work more quickly.

Some may wonder why Verizon is engaged in this issue. Simply put: as one of the State’s largest private unionized employers, we think people deserve second chances. This issue impacts millions of New Yorkers, including our customers, our employees and our business. We believe that if someone hasn’t had any convictions for a certain number of years and aren’t on parole, probation or the state registry, they should be able to finally move on with their life. This measure will not end poverty or systemic racism, but it will do more to help people get back on their feet than all of the criminal justice reforms of the last few years combined.

As we work to strengthen our communities and propel our economy into the future – the Legislature should continue the passage of just and reasonable laws like this and the Drivers’ License Reform Act. These reforms create a next generation economy that truly provides opportunities for everyone. We look forward to working with lawmakers and the Governor to take that next step to help people rejoin the workforce. It is the right thing for those people in need of a second chance.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge lawmakers to advance this legislation.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Business Council of NYS strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Business Council of New York State, Inc., is the leading business organization in New York State. Our membership is a diverse group of businesses from all sectors of the economy ranging from large scale employers, minority and women-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and small business owners. Presently, seventy percent of our 3,200 members would be defined as a small business. We serve as an advocate for employers in the state’s political and policy-making arenas, working for a healthier business climate, economic growth, and jobs.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Crystal Griffith, Director of Workforce Development via email at crystal.griffith@bcnys.org.
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
S.211 – by Senators Myrie, Bailey, Breslin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Kennedy, Liu, May, Mayer, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb - Finance Committee


TITLE
AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law and the correction law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS
The bill amends the Criminal Procedure Law by adding a new Section 160.57 to seal certain felony records after sentences have been completed.

REASONS FOR SUPPORT
The Business Council of Westchester (BCW), the county’s largest business membership organization focusing on economic development and advocacy with over 1000 members, supports this legislation, the Clean Slate Act, that would seal certain felony records after sentences have been completed. The BCW understands the need to remove barriers of former incarcerated individuals that can limit their access to opportunities such as employment and housing. Furthermore, New York State is still facing a workforce shortage, and this population who has paid their debt to society should have the opportunity to have a chance to obtain a job. Under this amended bill, a person is eligible for relief if: they have completed a three-year waiting period for misdemeanors or a seven-year waiting period for felonies, not counting time served in prison; they have completed probation/parole; they have no pending New York State charges; and the conviction to be cleared is not a sex offense. The bill sponsors have additionally added more liability protections for employers.

For these reasons, the BCW urges the State Legislature to approve this bill.

3/1/23
MEMO: CLEAN SLATE ACT

1.27.23

MEMO IN SUPPORT OF A1029 (CRUZ) / S211 (MYRIE)

AUTOMATIC SEALING OF PRIOR CONVICTIONS

Tech:NYC is a nonprofit member-based organization representing over 800 technology companies in New York. Our membership includes hundreds of startups as well as some of the largest and most innovative tech companies in the world. We are committed to supporting New York's economic recovery and ensuring that all New Yorkers can benefit from innovation. Tech:NYC works with government and community partners to guarantee that New York remains the best place in the country to start and grow a technology company.

New York City is home to over 25,000 tech companies and startups, and roughly 370,000 employees working at traditional tech companies or holding tech-related jobs in other industries. Growing a diverse and talented employee base is crucial to maintaining NYC’s reputation as a leading tech economy, and gives New York a competitive advantage over other tech hubs.

One of Tech:NYC’s core missions is building the pipeline of talent so our tech sector can continue to grow. However, for over two million New Yorkers with prior convictions struggling to successfully reenter society, their criminal record is often a hindrance to professional development. In many cases, the individual’s criminal record is for a minor infraction making their barrier to entry even more difficult. Tech:NYC believes that New Yorkers who want to contribute to the state’s economy should have the opportunity to do so. Allowing a person’s criminal history to prevent them from obtaining employment or housing only holds our society back.

The Clean Slate Act would automatically seal a person’s record if they have fulfilled their sentence, probation, and parole, and have no pending charges. It would apply to misdemeanors and felonies, and permit for these charges to be sealed 3 and 7 years after original sentencing, respectively. Tech:NYC supports the Clean Slate Act which, if passed, could play a meaningful role in the expansion of the tech industry in New York. For these reasons, we encourage the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Hochul to sign, A1029/S211.
February 15, 2023

We write to urge passage of Clean Slate legislation in New York.

Microsoft is committed to addressing racial injustice and inequality in the United States.

Following the murder of George Floyd, Microsoft announced a series of commitments centered on three multi-year pillars including: (1) increasing representation and strengthening a culture of inclusion, (2) engaging our ecosystem and (3) strengthening our communities.

As part of our commitment to addressing justice reform, Microsoft joined several companies in launching the Second Chance Business Coalition, which is aimed at educating and working collectively as employers around our hiring practices and policies for individuals with criminal records.

As a major employer, we recognize the collateral consequences a criminal record can have on an individual’s everyday life. Having a job and a place to live are critical components in reducing recidivism rates.

At the same time, 9 out of 10 employers use background checks in the hiring process. Employers are more likely to reject applicants with a conviction history and disclosing a record can reduce the likelihood of interviews or job offers by almost half.

Currently, 2.3 million New Yorkers – or 1 in 7 - have a criminal record. Black and Latino New Yorkers, collectively make up three-quarters of the formerly imprisoned population bearing most of the burden of the justice system. According to a recent analysis, there is an annual loss of $1.9 billion earnings for New Yorkers who have spent time in prison.

By passing the Clean Slate Act, the state would be creating economic opportunity. Research shows that record-sealing laws increase both employment and wages among beneficiaries. When people can clear their records, their earnings rise by about 20 percent.

Microsoft supports state efforts to enact and implement automatic record clearing to increase economic opportunity, ensure greater racial equity, and streamline the process for individuals returning to our communities and workforce. We urge you to work aggressively to pass legislation.

For more information, please contact Ariana Caplan at Ariancaplan@microsoft.com
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act

S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is the borough’s leading economic development and business advocacy organization. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce connects small business owners to resources to help them sustain their businesses and help their communities thrive. Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce programs bring together community business stakeholders through commercial revitalization projects and community-wide planning efforts.

I am pleased to submit testimony in support of S.211/A.1029, the Clean Slate Act, which would implement the automatic record expungement of certain convictions within the State of New York. The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can set the example. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act, a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.
The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce believes in all able-bodied persons having access to employment, stable housing, and educational opportunity. Unfortunately, 2.3 million New Yorkers are disqualified from life essentials due of conviction records. Our economy loses $87 billion in gross domestic product annually by locking-out workers with criminal records from the labor market. Past conviction records significantly impact individuals and their families from succeeding on the road to rehabilitation. Instead, the past offender enters economic instability for years after completing their sentencing guidelines. Everyone deserves a second chance, and the Clean Slate Act will allow all New Yorkers a pathway towards economic relief. The Black and Hispanic communities within the State of New York are by far impacted the most in recovering their freedom economically. Plagued by years of abuse, the criminal justice system is continuously built on the labor of offenders. However, once their terms have ended, their recovery is thwarted. Doing so, deepens the divide within New York’s social classes and inequalities of civic life.

We support the immediate passage of the Clean Slate Act, a bill that will allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully contribute to their communities after criminal legal involvement has ended. Precisely, Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the passage of the Clean Slate Act S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Questions may be directed to Vladimir Sterlin, Senior Director of Community, Policy & Government Affairs, vsterlin@brooklynchamber.com.

Sincerely,

Randy Peers
President & CEO
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Clean Slate Act is central to the Chamber’s mission of improving the quality of life for all of our residents, as well as developing and attracting quality business and professional services to the Greater Harlem community. At its essence, the Clean Slate Act is economic legislation, which will contribute to Harlem’s world-renowned vitality and recognition as a worldwide tourist, entertainment, sports, arts, cultural, educational, historic, religious and health services destination of international diversity. The Act will allow those who may have transgressed to come home and positively contribute to the Harlem community and be part of its ever-growing local, regional, national and international support base, encompassing individuals, single proprietors, and Fortune 500 Corporations.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. The opportunity to have a job, a place to live, and an education are fundamental for any community to survive. Yet, under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served because such opportunities can remain closed for a lifetime. The impact is insidious, reverberating across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We join the Clean Slate Coalition in urging the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that will create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state and particularly in the greater Harlem community. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure
that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow all New Yorkers, but in particular those returning to their home in Harlem to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to the Hon. Milton Tingling or Richard S. Taffet, co-chairs of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce’s Legal Committee.
CEO Action for Racial Equity supports the introduction of the Clean Slate Act, Senate Bill S211 and Assembly Bill A1029 collectively referred to as the “Clean Slate Act”.

CEO Action for Racial Equity is a first-of-its-kind, business-led initiative that mobilizes CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™ signatory organizations to advance policy change at the federal, state and local levels. The CEO Action for Racial Equity Fellowship includes over 100 organizations that mobilizes a community of business leaders with diverse expertise across multiple industries and geographies to advance public policy in four key areas — healthcare, education, economic empowerment and public safety. Our mission is to identify, develop and promote scalable and sustainable public policies and corporate engagement strategies that will address systemic racism, social injustice and improve societal well-being.

One focus issue for the Fellowship is expanding job opportunities for justice-involved individuals through fair chance hiring policies and practices. There are more than 2.3 million New Yorkers that have a criminal record and having a criminal record blocks individuals from accessing employment, among other things. Indeed, research has shown that job applicants without criminal records were 60% more likely to receive a job callback from an employer.

Further, the National economy loses hundreds of billions of dollars each year due to unemployment and underemployment among individuals with a criminal record. A 2020 study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with conviction records. By expanding opportunity, the Clean Slate Act can help expand the state’s workforce and increase wages. For example, within two years of expunging an individual’s criminal record under Michigan law, research showed that an individual was 11% more likely to have a job and earned nearly 20% more in wages.

As a coalition of businesses, we have first-hand knowledge of the labor shortage facing the US. Criminal records impact our workforce, customers, and communities. Removing obstacles to employment and including justice-involved individuals in the talent pipeline can help increase the workforce and boost the economy.

Many states including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Connecticut, Delaware, and Virginia have already acted to automatically seal criminal records, and many others are moving in the same direction with bipartisan support. Passing the Clean Slate Act will help to mobilize untapped talent and destigmatize reentry through fair chance hiring practices.

CEO Action for Racial Equity urges you to pass the Clean Slate Act in this legislative session.

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1 Bill S211. An act to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law and corrections law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions: https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/s211.


Labor Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Legislation       A1029 (Cruz)/S211 (Myrie)

Title             Relates to the automatic sealing of certain convictions

Laborers Local 79, a construction union representing 10,000 hardworking members in New York City, *rises in strong support of A1029/S211*, legislation to automatically seal certain convictions to help formerly incarcerated New Yorkers access employment, housing, and other basic necessities.

Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Their convictions block them from accessing employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. These civil consequences disproportionately impact Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life.

*New York has the power to change this by passing A1029/S211. Known as the Clean Slate Act, the legislation would automatically clear conviction records for all New Yorkers who have successfully served their sentence.*

In an effort to mitigate the harms of a conviction record, New York State passed application-based records clearance in 2017. But this has proven to be an inadequate remedy. In the three years since the law went into effect, fewer than 0.5 percent of eligible people have had their records cleared, a rate consistent with other states that have application-based record clearance laws. The law is complex and difficult to navigate, often requiring legal assistance.

The impact of records clearance is also significant for New York’s economy. Our economy loses $87 billion in gross domestic product every year from shutting workers with records out of the labor market. Meanwhile, research shows that a year after getting a record cleared, people are 11
percent more likely to have a job and are earning wages that are more than 20 percent higher than beforehand.

This relief should be available to all New Yorkers and with the passage of A1029/S211, it can be. More specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes after a 1-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a 3-year period for felonies, not including time incarcerated, and after completion of community supervision. This would ensure people have access to employment and housing when it is most difficult to access but most critical. Full expungement would happen after 5- and 7-year waiting periods and only if the person has no subsequent convictions.

Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting not only individuals but also their families, neighborhoods, and New York State as a whole. New York has a long history of enacting important reform to support full participation in the life and economy of this state. We must continue this tradition by passing Clean Slate legislation. **Laborers Local 79, and its affiliated labor organizations, urges you to support and pass A1029/S211.**
LEGISLATIVE MEMO:
WE SUPPORT
Clean Slate
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

This bill allows people with conviction histories to rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes 3-years after sentencing for misdemeanors and 7-years for felonies, not including time incarcerated.

This relief should be available to all New Yorkers. Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers -- many of our family, friends, and neighbors -- live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Their convictions block them from accessing employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. This bill will reduce the negative impact of racism in our criminal legal system, which disproportionately impacts Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life. This bill will also reduce the impact of convictions on the perpetuation of poverty. Relegating people with convictions to a lifetime of penalties discourages people from trying to change their lives and is against the principles behind rehabilitation.

This bill would impact District Council 37 (DC 37) workers, their families and their neighborhoods. When a police encounter ends in a criminal conviction, a family member or friend is shut out of numerous basic needs, such as public housing, employment opportunities, employment licensing, and student loans and grants. These penalties can keep the person from being able to support their family and perpetuates a cycle of poverty. Errors in judgment, often made during the age 17-21 years, should not determine a person’s future opportunities. Clean Slate will allow people with criminal convictions, but years of no contact with the criminal system, the opportunity to have their records sealed for civil purposes.

On behalf of the 150,000 members of District Council 37 and our 89,000 retirees, we urge the Legislature to immediately pass Clean Slate legislation.

February 3, 2023

District Council 37, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
125 Barclay Street New York, NY 10007-2179 • Tel: (212) 815-1550
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

February 9, 2023

Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, a labor union that represents over 13,000 men and women employed in a variety of different industries across New York State, including, food retail, pharmaceutical retail, health care and human services, transportation, agriculture, and cannabis. We strongly support S.211 (Myrie)/A.1029 (Cruz), which would create a system of automatic sealing and expungement of conviction histories, thereby removing systemic barriers to create a “clean slate” for millions of New Yorkers.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

Now, more than ever, we must do everything we can to help New Yorkers recover and rebuild economically. A key to doing that is through common sense policy that eliminates unnecessary barriers to allow individuals to thrive without the harsh reality of being punished well beyond their sentence has ended. This is both a moral and an economic issue. Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW respectfully urges the New York State Legislature to immediately pass the Clean Slate legislation (S.211/A.1020) and ensure millions of New Yorkers get a second chance.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

On behalf of 1199SEIU’s 300,000 New York State members, we write in favor of S.211 / A.1029 amending the criminal procedure law, the executive law and the correction law by requiring the automatic sealing and expungement of certain convictions for people who have “paid their debt to society.”

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Contact:
Tori Newman Campbell
Legislative Coordinator
Tori.newman@1199.org
Communications Workers of America, District 1 strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

CWA District 1 represents 145,000 workers in 200 CWA local unions in New York, New Jersey, New England, and eastern Canada. CWA members work in telecommunications, health care, higher education, manufacturing, broadcast and cable television, commercial printing and newspapers, state, local, and country government. District 1 represents 65,000 members in New York State.

The Clean Slate Act
S.211 Myrie | A.1029 Cruz

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in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Clean Slate is a common-sense piece of legislation that will help strengthen our economy and expand opportunities for working people. CWA District 1 urges passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

For More Information Contact CWA District 1 at 212-344-2515
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

United Auto Workers Region 9A strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

United Auto Workers Region 9A encompasses the Northeast states of Maine down to the greater New York City area, as well as Puerto Rico. Our Region represents approximately 35,000 members, both active and retired, in a diverse array of industries including manufacturing, legal services, higher education, technical and office professionals, early childhood education, paraeducators, auto repair technicians, casino dealers, drafters working for government defense contractors, phlebotomists, and more.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community
supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Deborah Wright, Political Director, at dwright@uaw.net.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act

S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Legal Services Staff Association, NOLSW/UAW Local 2320 strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Natalie James, LSSA 2320 Political Action Representative.
March 10, 2023

Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The New York State Iron Workers District Council, representing over 10,000 members across the state of New York strongly supports the Clean Slate Act, S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz), a legislation that will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records.

Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Be it securing a job, a place to live, an education- doors that were once open can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children. For these reasons, we urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

James P. Mahoney
President
Survivor Advocates Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ) is a national network of 180,000 crime victims, including chapters and leaders across the country. Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice is building a movement to share our stories, heal together and advocate for a justice system that prioritizes healing, prevention, recovery, and rehabilitation. The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Aswad Thomas at aswad@safeandjust.org.

Sincerely,
Aswad Thomas, M.S.W.
National Director, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

JAAGO HUDSON strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

JAAGO HUDSONS VISION
A community where all forms of sexual assault, violence, and abuse do not exist.

JAAGO HUDSONS MISSION
Jaago Hudson is a survivor-led movement that aims to raise awareness and remove the stigma surrounding sexual abuse and violence in the South Asian diaspora by harnessing the power of survivors using community circles.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Jabin Ahmed.
A Little Piece of Light Inc, strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Little Piece of Light ("ALPOL") seeks to empower and facilitate healing for women, girls, and gender-fluid individuals who are directly impacted by trauma and involvement in the criminal justice system. Led by formerly incarcerated and family members of incarcerated individuals, ALPOL mobilizes those that share their collective trauma incited by sexism, racism, violence, poverty, and the criminal justice system.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Audrey Johnson, aj@alittlepieceoflight.org.
The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA) is a private, non-profit coalition providing support to 80+ community-based rape crisis programs located throughout New York State. As an organization focused on ending all forms of sexual violence and exploitation, as well as ending intersectional forms of oppression, NYSCASA continues our firm support toward the immediate passage of the “Clean Slate” bill.

Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers — our family, friends, neighbors — live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Their convictions block them from accessing employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. And because of racism in our criminal legal system, these civil consequences disproportionately impact Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life.

New York State can change this. The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA) urges the legislature to pass the Clean Slate legislation that would automatically clear conviction records for all New Yorkers who have successfully served their sentence.

In an effort to mitigate harm, New York State passed application-based records clearance in 2017. This has proven to be an inadequate remedy. In the three years since the law went into effect, fewer than 0.5 percent of eligible people have had their records cleared, a rate consistent with other states that have application-based record clearance. Our economy loses currently $87 billion every year from shutting workers with records out of the labor market. Meanwhile, research shows that a year after getting a record cleared, people are 11% more likely to have a job and are earning wages that are more than 20% higher than beforehand. This relief should be available to all New Yorkers.

We strongly support the immediate passage of A1029 (Cruz)/S211 (Myrie) which would allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes after a 1-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a 3-year period for felonies, not including time incarcerated, and after completion of community supervision. This would ensure people have access to employment and housing when it is most difficult to access but most critical. Full expungement would happen after 5- and 7-year waiting periods and only if the person has no subsequent convictions.

Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting not only individuals but also their families and neighborhoods. We must pass “Clean Slate”.
Faith Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The New York State Council of Churches (NYSCOC) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

NYSCOC is comprised of 9 partner Denominations and represents 7500 congregations throughout New York State. NYSCOC empowers congregations and denominations to work ecumenically, to do justice, and to develop their property for the benefit of their community. We are both religiously based and community-oriented, working throughout New York state connecting rural, urban, and suburban communities and congregations.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.
We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Peter Cook, Executive Director PCook@NYSCOC.org,(518) 436 9319 or (508) 380 8289.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Peter Cook
Executive Director
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance) is a faith and community-based program that offers alternatives to detention, incarceration and violence prevention work. We utilize asset-based mentoring to connect court-involved and high-risk youth and young adults with positive local community resources: to prevent recidivism and address youth-initiated goals in education and employment.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Anthony Springer, Senior Advocacy Associate, 929-841-4080, anthonys@bronxconnect.org.

Sincerely,

Reverend Wendy Calderon-Payne
Executive Director, Urban Youth Alliance (BronxConnect)
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The New York Jewish Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform strongly supports the immediate passage of the Clean Slate Act, S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The New York Jewish Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform (NYJCCJR) is composed of 26 member organizations including synagogues, community-based organizations and advocacy and education groups in New York City. As a faith coalition, we view passage of the Clean Slate Act as a religious, moral and ethical issue. Our current system is one of perpetual punishment and unending exile for people with convictions, repeatedly blocking them from life essentials like jobs, housing and education. This impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life. Perpetual punishment and unending exile are foreign concepts under Jewish law and ethics. In Jewish tradition, the purpose of punishment is teshuvah – repentance and return. Our Jewish sages teach us that communities thrive and flourish when people are able to return and fully participate.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass the Clean Slate Act, S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Rachel Lissy at lissyr@jcrcny.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Church in the Wild strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Church in the Wild is an eco-spiritual community working for environmental and social justice in the southern tier of New York.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Rev. Corey Turnpenny at churchinthewildcommunity@gmail.com
Trinity Church Wall Street strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).  

Trinity Church Wall Street is a vibrant and growing Episcopal parish of more than 1,600 members. Over the past 325 years, the fabric of Trinity has been woven by the Spirit from the lives and gifts of diverse people; their desire to live their faith through worship, service, study, and stewardship; and the ever-evolving life of New York City itself. The parish is guided by its mission to share God’s love for all people. Trinity’s programs seek to offer shared encounters with the holy, to cultivate compassion, to deepen our knowledge and spiritual practices, to work for justice rooted in essential human dignity, to provide places of solace and healing, and to inspire a desire in all people to be conscientious contributors to the life of our city and the world.  

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Natasha Lifton, Director, Government Relations at NLifton@trinitywallstreet.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Cornerstone Group, of Broome County, NY strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Cornerstone Group is a social justice ecumenical faith group partnership supporting formerly incarcerated people transitioning back into society.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Rev. Dr. Cris Mogenson, Chairperson of the Cornerstone Group, bcjchaplain@gmail.com, 607-761-8264
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST) is a vibrant spiritual community and a progressive voice within Judaism. Founded in 1973, CBST attracts and welcomes gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, non-binary, queer and straight individuals and families who share common values. Passionate, provocative, and deeply Jewish, CBST champions a Judaism that rejoices in diversity, denounces social injustice wherever it exists, and strives for human rights for all people.

Our tradition teaches that it is possible to seek forgiveness and make amends, and that it is wrong to continue punishing someone after they have gone through this process. The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have served their time are subjected to unjust perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in our communities.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state, and would end the unjust perpetual punishment which makes no one safer. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Rabbi Marisa James, rabbijames@cbst.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Dismantling Racism Team of Congregation Beth Elohim strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Founded in 2015, the Dismantling Racism Team of Congregation Beth Elohim (the largest Reform Jewish Congregation in Brooklyn) advocates, in alliance with directly impacted groups, for criminal-justice reforms — such as Raise the Age, bail reform, and Less Is More — to address the system’s disparate treatment of people of color.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Any questions can be directed to the Congregation Beth Elohim Dismantling Racism Team Co-Chairs, Robin Baker and Samin Pogoff, at cbedismantlingracismteam@cbek.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Central in Action Leadership Team (Central Synagogue) strongly supports the immediate passage of the Clean Slate Act.

Central Synagogue is a thriving Reform congregation in Midtown Manhattan with over 8,000 members and a national and international reach. As New Yorkers and as Jews, we support Clean Slate because in Jewish tradition, there is no such thing as perpetual punishment or permanent exile. As a people, we believe in the power and practice of teshuvah; the ability for each of us to repent, atone, and return with a “clean slate.” Our criminal legal system today too often denies people the opportunity to fully repent and return to community. Instead, legal barriers to re-entry prevent people from accessing meaningful employment and stable housing.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and educational opportunities posed by old conviction records, and create a true path of teshuvah for people coming home.

We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense, jobs and economic justice bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Rabbi Hilly Haber (haberh@censyn.org).
FPWA strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

FPWA is an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization committed to advancing economic opportunity, justice, and upward mobility for New Yorkers with low incomes. Since 1922, FPWA has driven groundbreaking policy reforms to better serve those in need. We work to dismantle the systemic barriers that impede economic security and well-being, and strengthen the capacity of human services agencies and faith organizations so New Yorkers with lower incomes can thrive and live with dignity.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to our Chief Program and Policy Officer, Raysa S. Rodriguez, at rsrodriguez@fpwa.org.
Policy, Advocacy, and Community Groups
Memoranda of Support for The Clean Slate Act
May 25, 2023

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader
188 State Street
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker of the Assembly
188 State Street
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Clean Slate

Dear Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We represent 40 organizations advocating for children and families across New York State urging you to pass and sign into law Clean Slate during this legislative session because the reform will benefit our children and families.

Based on our work with young people and families, we know that permanent criminal records create lifelong barriers to opportunity for over 2 million community members. They also undermine economic mobility and success for families across generations, pushing them deeper into poverty. Clean Slate is a crucial step toward more full participation in our economy, which is essential to the well-being of children, youth and families.

Research shows the deleterious intergenerational effects of parental criminal records across different domains of family well-being: income, savings and assets, education, housing, mental health, and family strength and stability. The impacts of having a criminal record do not disappear after one generation; rather, they feed the cycle of poverty that continues to produce harmful, unjust and inequitable outcomes for the children and family members of people who have had contact with the criminal legal system.

In New York, the civil consequences of a conviction can permanently impair someone’s future, even if the individual never reoffends. The Council of State Governments has found more than 1,000 civil consequences of conviction in New York. These legal and regulatory restrictions create barriers to accessing and keeping a job and housing and their ability to access loans, credit and educational opportunities. These barriers effectively punish children and families by restricting access to the resources they need to thrive.
Clean Slate will make a significant impact in our collective work to build communities where children, youth and families can thrive. It would provide automatic record sealing for misdemeanors after 3 years, and for felonies after 7 years not counting time in prison where probation or parole is completed and there are no pending charges. Passing Clean Slate now means removing barriers for housing and most jobs for people who have been locked-out of opportunity.

Thank you for championing children, youth and families in your work. Passing and signing Clean Slate into law this year will help strengthen our communities.

In partnership,

Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition   Hour Children
Advocates for Children                 Integrate NYC
Ali Forney Center                     Justice for Families
Bronx Connect                          Lawyers for Children
Brotherhood - Sistersol (BroSis)      New Hour for Women and Children - LI
CASA of New York                      NYC Family Policy Project
Center for Fair Futures                NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic
Center for Family Representation      Prevent Child Abuse NY
Children’s Defense Fund-NY             Rohan Levy Foundation
Children’s Law Center                  Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Children’s Rights                     The Children’s Agenda
Citizens’ Committee for Children      The Children's Village
Coalition for Homeless Youth          The Legal Aid Society - Juvenile Rights Project
Covenant House                        The NYS Coalition for Children’s Behavioral Health
Empowerment Collective of Long Island Westchester Children's Association
Families Together of New York         Year Up New York|New Jersey
FPWA                                   Young New Yorkers
Free to Be Youth                      Youth Justice Network
Graham Windham                        Youth Represent
Henry Street Settlement               Youth Shelter Program of Westchester
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
S211A/A1029A

To: New York State Assembly and Senate

Subject: An act relating to the automatic sealing of certain convictions

Date: May 8, 2023

The League of Women Voters urges enactment of the Clean Slate bill (S.211A/A.1029A). Under this bill, those with a criminal record who have served their period of incarceration and lived for a fixed period of time without interaction with the criminal justice system would have their record automatically sealed. It would mean that a criminal conviction would no longer cause an individual seeking to live a constructive life to be faced with never ending barriers.

The impact of a criminal conviction does not end upon an individual’s release from incarceration. Those formerly incarcerated face significant difficulties in obtaining housing, healthcare and, most importantly, employment. For example, an incarcerated person who became proficient at barbering while in prison was denied a barber’s license after his release, thereby denying him the ability to be employed with the skills he had learned. This is the type of restriction that more than two million New Yorkers currently face in trying to put their criminal activities behind them1.

The bill would not only improve the lives of those directly affected by its provisions, but it would also be of great benefit to employers who are today in dire need of employees eager to work. That is why the bill is supported by entities such as the Business Council of New York, Verizon, Microsoft and JP Morgan Chase2. It also has the support of many unions across the state that see enhanced employment opportunities.

The bill provides for the sealing of the records of those convicted of a misdemeanor after three years and of those convicted of a felony after seven years as long they have not had any further interaction with the criminal justice system. There are exceptions that allow access to sealed records in defined circumstances. Among those entitled to see such records are law enforcement agencies, the courts, the department of education and government entities that issue licenses. There is a specific exception allowing the unsealing of the record of an individual who applies for a gun permit.

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1 https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/clean-slate-act-can-build-more-prosperous-new-york
2 https://www.cleanslateny.org/steering-committee
The Clean Slate bill passed in the Senate in 2022. It is now time to enact this bill before the conclusion of the 2023 session, thereby lifting the burdens now faced by those who have served their sentences and are trying to rebuild their lives.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State urges the Senate and Assembly to pass the bill (S211A/A1029A) this session.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Westchester Children’s Association strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Westchester Children’s Association (WCA) is a small, 109-year-old, nonprofit agency dedicated to improving the lives of Westchester’s children by shaping policies and programs to meet their needs, and by keeping the well-being of Westchester’s children at the top of the public agenda. WCA focuses on key issues that affect the most vulnerable young people in Westchester. We identify current needs by analyzing data, talking directly with youth and families, and working closely with public and nonprofit service providers.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Angel Gray, agray@wca4kids.org.
AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law and the correction law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions

The Clean Slate Act

THESE BILL IS APPROVED

The New York City Bar Association (the City Bar), founded in 1870, is an organization of 23,000 members dedicated to improving the administration of justice. We include among our membership lawyers in virtually every area of law practice, including those representing defendants in criminal and civil courts; lawyers in government service, human and civil rights organizations, and public defender offices; as well as judges, attorneys in large firms, small firms, solo practice, and in-house counsel at corporations.

The City Bar’s Mass Incarceration Task Force, Corrections and Community Reentry and Criminal Justice Operations Committees, call upon the New York State legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act, A.1029/S.211, legislation that will automatically seal criminal conviction records for civil purposes after reasonable waiting periods. Under Clean Slate, misdemeanor conviction records will be automatically sealed three years after sentencing and felony records seven years after sentencing. The timetable clock continues to tick during any time an individual is serving a sentence in the community, i.e., during parole, probation, or post-release supervision, but sealing will not take effect until community supervision is complete. The sealing is for civil purposes only: records will remain available for criminal justice purposes, and for gun licensing.

The Clean Slate Act will allow individuals with conviction histories to move forward, achieve financial and housing security for themselves and their families, and become vital

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About the Association
The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has 23,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world.
participants in New York’s recovering economy. For this reason, Clean Slate enjoys broad support from businesses, law firms, faith leaders, organized labor, survivor advocacy groups, and many other sectors.  

Championed by Senator Zellnor Myrie and Assemblymember Catalina Cruz and a host of co-sponsors, Clean Slate is supported by Governor Hochul and by New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

New York State needs Clean Slate legislation now more than ever, and it is essential that it pass this term. An astonishing one in seven New Yorkers – more than 2.3 million people – have conviction histories; because of our state’s history of discriminatory policing, prosecution, and mass incarceration, most are Black or brown. Having a conviction history can mean a lifetime of perpetual punishment that continues long after any criminal systems involvement has ended. And it can result in a lifetime of lost opportunities not only for an individual but for their families and communities. A recent Brennan Center study showed, for example, that imprisonment cuts a person’s future earnings in half, and that the national economy loses approximately $55.2 billion each year as a result.

Enacting broad-based, automatic records sealing is necessary for real change. Since 1991 New York has automatically sealed both records of arrests terminated favorably to the accused and records of arrests that terminated in a violation-level conviction (C.P.L. §§160.50 and 160.55), but no automatic relief exists for criminal convictions (except where certain criminal charges have been decriminalized, such as low-level possession or sale of marijuana through the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act). Clearing past criminal conviction records is an extremely limited proposition in New York, requiring an application be filed in court and granted by a judge. And avenues for relief are quite limited: New York’s current application-based sealing law, C.P.L. § 160.59, has strict eligibility criteria (including that an applicant not have been convicted of more than two crimes in their lifetime) that exclude hundreds of thousands of people who need sealing relief. And it is inefficient: too complex for most individuals to navigate without counsel, petition-based sealing spends down legal, judicial and court personnel resources. It is unsurprising that...


3 A list of Assembly cosponsors is available at https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_flld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=a1029&term=0&Summary=Y; a list of Senate cosponsors is available at https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/s211.

4 Governor Hochul included key Clean Slate principles in her proposed Executive Budget in 2022, evidencing the broad, statewide support for the values that underpin the Clean Slate Act: strengthened communities, increased economic growth, and enhanced public safety. However, the language proposed in the Executive Budget included timelines and other changes that significantly weakened the bill, and the language was ultimately dropped from the budget. See Nick Reisman, “Bill sealing criminal records in New York fails in budget talks,” Spectrum News 1, April 8, 2022, https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2022/04/08/bill-sealing-criminal-records-in-new-york-fails-in-budget-talks.


7 Available at https://www.brennancenter.org/media/6666/download.
since its 2017 passage to date, fewer than 6% of those eligible to apply have managed to get through the C.P.L. 160.59 process. By contrast, Clean Slate would provide relief automatically, ending the cascade of civil consequences that many experience as a civil life sentence.

The Clean Slate Act represents a careful balancing of concerns and interests. While the bill limits the use of sealed convictions for most civil purposes, it does not impact access to or consideration of sealed convictions by criminal legal system actors, including criminal courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement. In addition, it provides access to conviction records to federal and state agencies in connection with applications for gun licensing, and to government agencies when state or federal law requires fingerprint screening for licensure or clearance to work in a specific field – e.g., providing services to disabled individuals, senior citizens, and children. This employment-related exception gives deference to the Legislature’s determination that fingerprint-based background checks are mandated for people working in these positions. For fields where state or federal legislators have determined that fingerprinting is not necessary, applicants must be able to access sealing relief.

In addition, the Clean Slate Act addresses employer liability in negligence claims. Not only are sealed convictions inadmissible as evidence in a civil negligence action under Clean Slate, but the bill does not impose any burden on employers to investigate the fact of a prior sealed conviction. Under subdivision 3(f) of proposed C.P.L. § 160.57, an employer “acting reasonably and in good faith, may not have a duty to investigate the fact of a prior conviction that has been sealed….”And while the legislation allows access to sealed records if a party becomes a witness in a civil proceeding to account for evidentiary rules, like witness impeachment, the conviction record cannot otherwise be accessed or introduced by parties in a civil proceeding.

The New York City Bar Association firmly supports the Clean Slate Act and advocates for its swift enactment.

Mass Incarceration Task Force
Sarah J. Berger and Jullian D. Harris-Calvin, Co-Chairs

Corrections and Community Reentry Committee
Alexis Flyer and Stephanie A. Holmes, Co-Chairs

Criminal Justice Operations Committee
Ben Wiener, Chair

Reissued February 2023*

Contact
Maria Cilenti, Senior Policy Counsel | 212.382.6655 | mcilenti@nycbar.org
Elizabeth Kocienda, Director of Advocacy | 212.382.4788 | ekocienda@nycbar.org

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8 Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.


* This report was first issued in May 2022 during the terms of the following committee chairs: Gregory D. Morril, Chair, Corrections and Community Reentry Committee; and Tess M. Cohen, Chair, Criminal Justice Operations Committee.
The Clean Slate Act Can Build a More Prosperous New York

UPDATED FEBRUARY 8, 2023

A criminal record is almost always permanent and public, causing economic hardship for people saddled with misdemeanor or felony convictions, and especially for those who have served time behind bars. The Brennan Center supports the Clean Slate Act (S. 211) as a way to create opportunities for the millions of New Yorkers impacted by the criminal justice system.

There is no such thing as a “minor” criminal record. According to Brennan Center research, time in prison reduces one’s subsequent annual earnings by around 50 percent, adding up to an average lifetime loss of around $500,000. A conviction alone reduces lifetime earnings by about $100,000. Even a misdemeanor slashes annual earnings by more than 15 percent. These disturbing findings suggest that criminal justice involvement can function as a poverty trap that prevents people from achieving prosperity, sets up future generations for material deprivation, and undermines our communities’ well-being.

More than 2.3 million New Yorkers have a criminal record of some kind. The consequences for the state are dire, as we found in a recent study:

- Some 337,000 New Yorkers have spent time in prison, missing out on $1.9 billion in earnings every year.*
- This burden is disproportionately borne by Black and Latino New Yorkers, who together make up nearly three-quarters of this population.

Under current state law, people who wish to remove these barriers to securing jobs and even housing must apply to have their records sealed. But record sealing remains out of reach for many due to eligibility limitations, a complicated and potentially costly administrative procedure, and the state’s failure to publicize the opportunity. By automating the process, the Clean Slate Act would remove these impediments at a stroke and make New York part of a bipartisan, nationwide movement to offer meaningful second chances. States as varied as Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Utah have all passed similar laws; Utah’s passed its legislature unanimously.

Under the Clean Slate Act, people who have been free of convictions and out of prison for a set period would have their criminal records automatically sealed, eliminating the need to go to court or hire a lawyer. Misdemeanor records would be sealed after three years. Felonies would be sealed after seven. In most cases, people would not need to disclose a sealed record when applying for a job, a professional license, or housing.

Passing this law would create opportunities for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers overnight. Research shows that record-sealing laws increase both employment and wages among beneficiaries. The law would likely help the state economy, too; a new analysis finds that states with more felony records tend to have lower statewide employment.

The bill takes public safety seriously. Licensing agents and law enforcement could still access sealed records in special cases, such as applications for firearm permits and prosecutions for new alleged offenses. The three- and seven-year waiting periods also ensure that the law benefits people who have both avoided contact with the criminal justice system for a significant period of time and are unlikely to become involved with it again.

The Clean Slate Act gives us a rare chance to build a fairer, safer, and more prosperous New York, and we urge lawmakers to seize the opportunity.

* This figure is based on national estimates.
February 1st, 2023

Memo in Support of S.211 (Myrie)/A.1029 (Cruz)

Clean Slate Act

Individuals with criminal records face life-long barriers to employment, housing, financial resources, and education. For those 2.3 million New Yorkers with arrest and conviction records - who come disproportionately from low-income Black and Brown communities - the stigma of a conviction and the attendant discrimination create almost insurmountable obstacles to achieving stability and success upon release.

In 2017, New York State enacted a law that allows criminal records to be permanently sealed after a ten-year wait, but only under limited conditions and after a burdensome, lengthy, and costly process. Out of an estimated 600,000 New Yorkers who are eligible to apply for records sealing, fewer than 2,500, or fewer than 1 percent, have been able to complete the process.

The Clean Slate Act automatically seals records three years after sentencing on an individual’s last misdemeanor conviction and seven years after sentencing for a felony conviction. In calculating these time periods, this bill takes into consideration the time during which a defendant was incarcerated.

These changes are essential if those who have served their societal debt are to have any opportunity to build a new life, to provide and care for their families, and to keep a roof over their heads. Further, when those with conviction histories are essentially excluded from the workforce, attendant unemployment and homelessness have a significantly adverse impact on the economy and society.

The NEW Pride Agenda seeks to advance the needs and rights of those in our community who experience discrimination not only because they are LGBTQ+, but also because they are people of color, young, immigrants, undocumented, elderly, living in poverty, or living at the intersections of these identities.

NPA supports S.211/A.6399 because it reduces systemic barriers that disproportionately impact low-income individuals of color with criminal records and provides long overdue relief to individuals who face unjust criminalization most especially as sex workers and those who are drug dependent.

Sincerely,
Elisa Crespo
Executive Director
NEW Pride Agenda
VOICE Buffalo strongly supports the immediate passage of $S.211$ (Myrie) / $A.1029$ (Cruz).

VOICE Buffalo is dedicated to faithfully bring forth social justice and equity in our region through organized, collective action. Our vision is to have a society of diverse communities that are empowered, informed, active, and connected to one another, where ALL people have access to the resources they need to thrive and a voice in the decisions that affect them.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children,
the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Tyrell Ford at ford@voicebuffalo.org or 315-481-5411.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

For the Many strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

For the Many is building a grassroots movement of everyday people - across race, age, and language - to fight for laws and win elections that bring us closer to a New York for the many. We firmly believe in the cause of decarceration and believe it is imperative in the fight for racial justice - and work with people every day who are victims of our current system of perpetual punishment.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Brahvan Ranga, Political Director at (908) 967-4437 or brahvan@forthemany.org.
The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The NYIC is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York State. The NYIC serves one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States. The multiracial and multisector NYIC membership base includes grassroots and nonprofit community organizations, religious and academic institutions, labor unions, as well as legal and socioeconomic justice organizations. The NYIC not only establishes a forum for immigrant groups to voice their concerns, but also provides a platform for collective action to drive positive social change. Since its founding in 1987, the NYIC has evolved into a powerful voice of advocacy by spearheading innovative policies, promoting and protecting the rights of immigrant communities, improving newcomer access to services, developing leadership and capacity, expanding civic participation, and mobilizing member groups to respond to the fluctuating needs of immigrant communities.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a commonsense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state's workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.
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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Nicole Catá, Director of Immigrant Rights Policy at the NYIC, at ncata@nyic.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Long Island Progressive Coalition strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Sincerely,
Lisa
Lisa Tyson
Executive Director
The Center for Appellate Litigation strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Center for Appellate Litigation is a non-profit public defense law firm dedicated to the pursuit of equal justice under the law for indigent New Yorkers in their criminal appeals and other post-conviction proceedings. We believe all people deserve dignity, respect, and the right to be heard and treated fairly when their liberty has been taken from them or threatened, regardless of their ability to pay for an attorney. In support of our mission, we provide the highest quality legal representation to clients assigned to us by the courts in criminal appeals and post-conviction proceedings in Manhattan and The Bronx, and supply wrap-around services to clients during and after their incarceration.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Kate Skolnick (kskolnick@cfal.org).
Transgender Law Center strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Transgender Law Center (TLC) is the largest national trans-led organization advocating for a world in which all people are free to define themselves and their futures. Grounded in legal expertise and committed to racial justice, TLC employs a variety of community-driven strategies to keep transgender and gender nonconforming people alive, thriving, and fighting for liberation. TLC changes law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown transgender New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to TLC’s Legal Director, Lynly Egyes at lynly@transgenderlawcenter.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

WESPAC Foundation, Inc. strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

WESPAC Foundation is an important community center in Westchester County that has been working for progressive social change for almost five decades.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Nada Khader, WESPAC Foundation Director, via phone at 914.449.6514 or by email at wespacfoundation@gmail.com. Thank you!
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Women & Justice Project strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Women & Justice Project works in deep partnership to advance the leadership and build the power of cis and trans women who are currently and formerly incarcerated to transform the criminal legal system and create a just and loving world.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Jaya Vasandani, co-director, at jaya@wjpn.org.
MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Clean Slate Act

S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

February 9, 2023

New York County Defender Services (NYCDS) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). NYCDS is a trial-level public defender office in Manhattan that represents thousands of indigent people accused of crimes every year. Our clients would tremendously benefit from this legislation, which would clear the way for true post-conviction rehabilitation and bring these valuable, productive individuals back into the fold of society. We urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate legislation that would automatically clear conviction records for all New Yorkers who have successfully served their sentence.

Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers -- our family, friends, neighbors -- live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. NYCDS represents thousands of these individuals every year. In 2019, for example, our clients’ criminal cases resulted in 605 felony convictions and 1,941 misdemeanor convictions. These convictions block access to employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. And because of racism in our criminal legal system, these civil consequences disproportionately impact Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life. New York can change this.

We strongly support the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz), which would allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes after a 1-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a 3-year period for felonies, not including time incarcerated, and after completion of community supervision. This would ensure people have access to employment and housing when it is most difficult to access but most critical. Full expungement would happen after 5- and 7-year waiting periods and only if the person has no subsequent convictions.

Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting not only individuals but also their families, neighborhoods, and New York State as a whole. New York has a long history of enacting important reform to support full participation in the life and economy of this state. We must continue this tradition by passing Clean Slate legislation.

NYCDS therefore urges the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz) this session. Any questions can be directed to Casey Dalporto, Senior Policy Attorney, at edalporto@nycds.org
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Peaceprints of WNY strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

As a nationally recognized leader in reentry services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, Peaceprints of WNY leverages its expertise, passion for social justice and innovative programming to empower individuals and advocate for equitable opportunities.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Cindi McEachon, Chief Executive Officer at cmceachon@peaceprintswny.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

NYPAN Greene strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

NYPAN Greene is a chapter of New York Progressive Action Network. We are dedicated to supporting all efforts toward making this world more equitable, healthy, safer, and sustainable.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Cari Gardner, cariyogi@gmail.com.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The Gathering for Justice strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Gathering for Justice (“The Gathering”) is a Black and Brown led, women led organization founded in 2005 by Harry Belafonte after he witnessed news reports of a 5 year old Black girl, J’aiesha Scott, being handcuffed and arrested in her Florida kindergarten classroom for “being unruly”. Since then, The Gathering’s mission has been to build a movement to end child incarceration, in all its iterations, while working to eliminate the racial inequities that permeate the criminal justice system.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Luis Hernandez, Director of Youth Campaigns & Leadership at luis@gatheringforjustice.org.
MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR THE CLEAN SLATE ACT

S211 (Myrie) / A1029 (Cruz)

Mobilization for Justice, Inc. strongly supports and urges the passage of the Clean Slate Act (S211 /A1029). Mobilization for Justice’s (MFJ) mission is to achieve justice for all. MFJ prioritizes the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised, or have disabilities as they struggle to overcome the effects of social injustice and systemic racism. We provide the highest-quality free, direct civil legal assistance, conduct community education and build partnerships, engage in policy advocacy, and bring impact litigation. We assist more than 14,000 New Yorkers each year, benefitting over 24,000. MFJ’s Workplace Justice Project advocates on behalf of low-income workers and handles a range of employment problems, including discrimination based on a criminal record, obtaining occupational licenses and lowering barriers to employment, as well as sealing past criminal records.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies, not including time incarcerated, post-community supervision and only if the person has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing. The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment, long after their sentence is served.¹ Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.²

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S211/A1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state.

A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records.\(^3\) By expanding opportunities, the Clean Slate Act will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime.\(^4\) By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, the Clean Slate Act will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

The Clean Slate Act is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives.\(^5\) By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, the Clean Slate Act will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass The Clean Slate Act (S211 /A1029).** Any questions can be directed to Bernadette Jentsch at 212-417-3772 or bjentsch@mfjlegal.org.

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The Partnership for the Public Good strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

PPG is a community-based think tank in Buffalo that provides research and advocacy support across issue areas. We have over 360 partners and work to create a more equitable and inclusive Buffalo-Niagara area by advocating for more just policies on the state and local levels. Over the past 15 years, PPG has authored hundreds of reports and policy briefs, held space for community and meetings with elected officials, and hosted numerous popular education events.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime. This impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies, not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

PPG remains committed to advocating for Clean Slate and joined impacted families and advocates in Buffalo to end the life sentence people formerly incarcerated serve due to their conviction records. We stand united—along with the Buffalo Common Council that unanimously passed a resolution in 2021 in support of Clean Slate—to end perpetual punishment and provide families the opportunity to heal and access basic needs.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Tanvier Peart, Director of Policy Advancement, at tanvier@ppgbuffalo.org.
The New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA) writes in strong support of S.211/A.1029. By enacting this law, the legislature will ensure that New York takes a major step forward to address the state’s historical wrongs of racial injustice, over-policing, and unnecessary prosecution.

NYSDA, through our Public Defense Backup Center and Veterans Defense Program, provides comprehensive services to the approximately 6,000 public defenders, legal aid society lawyers, and court-appointed attorneys in over 130 county-based programs who represent people accused of crime and adults involved in family court cases who cannot afford to hire an attorney. We offer training, legal research, a statewide clearinghouse, and substantial technical and legal assistance that is critical to the effectiveness of overburdened defenders, and vital for improving racial and social justice.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

The Clean Slate Act would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

The Clean Slate Act would allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Under the law, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies, not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable
populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting not only individuals but also their families, neighborhoods, and New York State as a whole. New York has a long history of enacting important reforms to support full participation in the life and economy of this state. We must continue this tradition by passing Clean Slate legislation.

**For all these reasons, NYSDA calls on the legislature to immediately pass S.211/A.1029.**

*Contact Susan C. Bryant, 518-465-3524 x 26, sbryant@nysda.org (2/10/2023)*
Free the People WNY strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Free The People WNY is a coalition of organizers and organizations—including the formerly incarcerated, directly affected people, activists, and attorneys—that envisions a world free from the violence and death of mass incarceration. We act together to dismantle a justice system built on white supremacy and oppression, one that dehumanizes people, and we work to create in its place anti-racist systems with the values of collective liberation and true justice at their core.

The Free the People state working group unites organizers, advocates, and activists working on state-level campaigns that promote basic human dignity and ensure equity and harm reduction for our communities. The cohort uplifts decarceration through a racial justice lens and works across issue areas—justice system, housing, climate, and more—with awareness the fight for anti-racist systems is intersectional.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open—to jobs, a place to live, an education—can remain closed for a lifetime. This impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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Clean Slate is Free the People WNY’s top state priority. We worked with the Buffalo Common Council last year to unanimously pass a resolution—the first in Western New York—in support of the bill.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Tanvier Peart at tanvierpeart@gmail.com.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Truth Pharm strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Truth Pharm’s mission is to raise awareness, reduce the stigma, educate the public and advocate for policy change to reduce the harms of substance use.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Alexis Pleus, Executive Director.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

NELA/NY strongly supports the immediate passage of **S.211** (Myrie) / **A.1029** (Cruz).

The National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) is a national organization of attorneys dedicated to the vindication of employees’ rights. NELA/NY, incorporated as a bar association under the laws of New York State, is NELA’s New York State affiliate. For over 35 years, NELA/NY has been a leader in advancing legislation that positively impact New York’s workers.¹

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not

¹ https://www.nelany.com/
on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Miriam Clark, Legislative Committee Chair at mclark@rcbalaw.com.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz), the Clean Slate Act.

NACDL is the preeminent organization advancing the mission of the criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime or wrongdoing. NACDL’s more than 10,000 members (40,000 with state affiliate members) include private criminal defense lawyers, public defenders, military defense counsel, law professors and judges committed to preserving fairness and promoting a rational and humane criminal legal system. Critical to this mission are NACDL’s efforts to identify and reform flaws and inequities in the criminal legal system, and specifically address systemic racism and its impact on the administration of justice.

NACDL has undertaken several projects examining the collateral consequences of criminal convictions. In 2014, NACDL issued Collateral Damage America's Failure to Forgive or Forget in the War on Crime - A Roadmap to Restore Rights and Status After Arrest or Conviction. This report was the culmination of several years of study and multiple hearings throughout the country concerning relief mechanisms available to those with a conviction on their record. Additionally, in 2019 NACDL released Shattering the Shackles of Collateral Consequences: Exploring Moral Principles and Economic Innovations to Restore Rights and Opportunity. Putting words into action, NACDL is active in states across the country in supporting reforms that remove the collateral consequences of convictions and create avenues for successful reentry, and the association regularly coordinates pro bono expungement fairs for people needing legal assistance in clearing their records.

New York’s Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under the current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

As a result, we urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, the Clean Slate Act will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in the criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing
criminal records under Michigan law, research showed that impacted people were 11 percent more likely to have a job, were earning 22 percent more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, the Clean Slate Act will revitalize the community, which is safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

The Clean Slate Act is also crucial in addressing intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50 percent of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, the Clean Slate Act will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies, not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to NACDL’s Senior Director of Advocacy, Monica L. Reid, at mreid@nacdl.org or (202) 465-7660.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
**S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)**

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison strongly supports the immediate passage of **S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)**.

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison provides college education, life skills, and reentry support to currently and formerly incarcerated people so they can make a positive impact on their own lives, their families, and communities, resulting in lower rates of recidivism, incarceration, and poverty. Since its founding in 1998, Hudson Link has awarded over 850 degrees and welcomed 1,500 alumni of the program home to their families and communities. We currently have 600 students enrolled at six correctional facilities in New York State.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records that alumni of our program and millions of others face daily. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to salpert@hudsonlink.org.
Memorandum of Support
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Children’s Defense Fund - New York (CDF) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). This legislation is an essential step toward racial and economic justice in New York, as we rely on all members of our communities to participate in our COVID recovery. This is crucial for children and families.

CDF has a unique approach to improving conditions for children, combining research, public education, policy development, community organizing, and advocacy. A recognized authority in the endeavor to protect children and strengthen families, we serve as a resource and partner for children, families, and organizations throughout New York State. We leverage our national influence to eliminate the harmful and disproportionate impact that poverty has on children in New York and to eliminate race and gender inequities in the areas of education, health, child welfare and youth justice.

Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers -- our family, friends, neighbors -- live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Criminal records block them from employment, housing, and education opportunities that diminish individuals’ opportunities to contribute and thrive in their communities. CDF recognizes the profound impact conviction records have on New York’s children and families. When a parent or family member faces barriers to employment and housing, children suffer. This is especially true for Black and Latinx families, because we know that their communities are disproportionately represented in the criminal legal system. Research shows that a parent’s criminal record can affect a child’s emotional and physical well-being, health, relationships, opportunities, and future economic and outcomes.1 The intergenerational effects of criminal records impact a number of different domains:

• **Income.** Parents with criminal records have lower earning potential, as they often face major obstacles to securing employment and receiving public assistance.

• **Education.** Parents with criminal records face barriers to education and training opportunities that would increase their chances of finding well-paying jobs and better equip them to support their families.

• **Housing.** Barriers to public as well as private housing for parents with criminal records can lead to housing instability and make family reunification difficult if not impossible.

• **Family strength and stability.** Financial and emotional stressors associated with parental criminal records often pose challenges in maintaining healthy relationships and family stability.²

It is imperative that we support policies that lift families up, rather than holding them back. New York can change its current approach. We urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate legislation that would automatically clear conviction records for all New Yorkers who have successfully served their sentence.

In an effort to mitigate the harms of a conviction record, New York State passed application-based records clearance in 2017. But this has proven to be an inadequate remedy. In the three years since the law went into effect, fewer than 0.5 percent of eligible people have had their records cleared, a rate consistent with other states that have application-based record clearance laws. The law is complex and difficult to navigate, often requiring legal assistance.

But the impact of records clearance is significant. Our economy loses $87 billion in gross domestic product every year from shutting workers with records out of the labor market. Meanwhile, research shows that a year after getting a record cleared, people are 11 percent more likely to have a job and are earning wages that are more than 20 percent higher than beforehand.

Relief from the lasting impact of a conviction record should be available to all New Yorkers. We strongly support the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz), which would allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes after a 1-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a 3-year period for felonies, not including time incarcerated, and after completion of community supervision. This would ensure people have access to employment and housing when it is most difficult to access but most critical. Full expungement would happen after 5- and 7-year waiting periods and only if the person has no subsequent convictions.

² *Id.*
Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting individuals, children, families, neighborhoods, and New York State as a whole. New York has a long history of enacting important reform to support full participation in the life and economy of this state. We must continue this tradition by passing Clean Slate legislation.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).**

Any questions can be directed to Julia L. Davis, Esq. Director of Youth Justice & Child Welfare, Children’s Defense Fund-New York, jdavis@childrensdefense.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Center for Employment Opportunities strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Center for Employment Opportunities is the nation’s largest reentry provider. We believe every person returning from incarceration should have the opportunity for full participation in society, and we enthusiastically support legislation that promotes decarceration, justice reinvestment and economic mobility for justice impacted individuals.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Kenneth Edwards kedwards@ceoworks.org and Samra Haider shaider@ceoworks.org
Robin Hood strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Robin Hood is one of New York State’s largest organizations focused on lifting families out of poverty. For the past 35 years, Robin Hood has supported innovative and effective programs that enable New Yorkers to move out of poverty and realize economic opportunity. A growing part of Robin Hood’s work involves identifying and reforming the policies, structures, and systems that have entrenched New Yorkers, particularly communities of color, in a multigenerational cycle of poverty and hardship. Research shows that interactions with New York’s criminal legal system, even minor ones, can have devastating, long-term impacts. Time spent in prison can reduce a person’s lifetime earning potential by half a million dollars, while misdemeanor convictions reduce lifetime earnings by 16 percent. This creates tremendous harm for the more than 2.3 million New Yorkers with prior convictions and threatens New York’s economy.

A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children. Research shows children of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents experience higher rates psychological problems and antisocial behavior, poorer educational and employment outcomes, and higher rates of criminal behavior than similar children whose parents were not incarcerated. Removing barriers to housing and employment for New Yorkers with convictions supports returning individuals, their families, and their communities.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz) and provide additional research below to support our recommendation. Any questions can be directed to Jason Cone, Robin Hood Chief Policy Officer - jcone@robinhood.org
Supplemental Research

Access to Housing & Re-Entry Success
A study of community members across 14 states found that 79 percent of formerly incarcerated people and their families surveyed reported being denied housing due to a criminal conviction; other research finds that formerly incarcerated people are 10 times to 13 times more likely to experience homelessness than people who have not been incarcerated. Yet, research also shows that when people are stably housed, they have fewer recorded non-violent and survival offenses, like theft, robbery, trespassing, loitering, and prostitution. Research from the Returning Home Ohio Pilot Project found that when people have access to supportive housing services they are 40 percent less likely to be rearrested.

Access to Employment & Re-Entry Success
Research shows that the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people is nearly five times higher than the unemployment rate for the general population in the U.S., and substantially higher than even the worst years of the Great Depression. This is due in part to discrimination during the hiring process, as research shows having a criminal record can reduce interview callback rates from employers by about 50 percent. Studies show that 60 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals cannot find employment one year after release. But similar to the power of stable housing, research shows that having a job has been shown to reduce recidivism and individuals are less likely to commit crimes when they have stable, full-time employment.

Economic Stability Reduces Recidivism, Enhances Public Safety
The above findings underscore the relationship between economic stability and outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals, as does a study on women convicted of felonies, which found that poverty status increased the odds of rearrest by a factor of 4.6, and it increased the odds of a supervision violation by a factor of 12.7. Together, this evidence suggests that removing barriers to stable housing and employment not only benefits individuals with prior convictions and their families, but also improve public safety overall.

Prevent Discrimination and Improve Outcomes by Passing the Clean Slate Act
The most effective way to prevent discrimination against individuals with criminal histories is to seal record histories. Research shows that a year after getting a record cleared, people are 11 percent more likely to have a job and are earning wages that are more than 20 percent higher than beforehand, which is why states across the country have passed Clean Slate legislation. In an effort to mitigate the harms of a conviction record, New York State passed application-based records clearance in 2017 but this has proven to be an inadequate remedy. In the four years since the law went into effect, fewer than 0.5 percent of eligible people have had their records cleared, a rate consistent with other states that have application-based record clearance laws. The law is complex and difficult to navigate, often requiring legal assistance.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The Fortune Society strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Fortune Society is a 55-year-old organization that supports successful reentry from incarceration and promotes alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities. We do this by believing in the power of people to change; building lives through service programs shaped by the experiences of our participants; and changing minds through education and advocacy to promote the creation of a fair, humane, and truly rehabilitative correctional system.

The Fortune Society serves approximately 9,000 people annually across our many program areas, including education and employment services, and supportive housing and housing placement. Far too many of the people we serve are repeatedly denied access to employment and housing because of their conviction histories, even when they otherwise meet all job or tenancy requirements. Such denials not only impede their abilities to support themselves and their families, they also discourage them in painful, non-quantifiable ways; for a person who has committed to transforming themselves and trying to do everything possible to move forward, having a job offer rescinded, or a rental application turned down, makes them feel like their hard work was in vain. As one Fortune participant said after a landlord turned her away because of her conviction, “I feel like giving up.”

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.
Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to Lily Shapiro, Policy Counsel, The David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy at lshapiro@fortunesociety.org.
The Wayne County Public Defender strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Wayne County Public Defender practices high quality, innovative client centered representation in a rural setting. We see first hand how a criminal conviction of any kind can turn into a life sentence, to the detriment of our local economy and community.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York must change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Andrew Correia, Public Defender of Wayne County at acorreia@co.wayne.ny.us.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Community Rising Project strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Community Rising Project, a Non Profit Organization is a (comprehensive) Advocacy, Advancement and Support center for individuals of Color and those that support them, who are directly impacted by trauma and their involvement in the justice system. We are community members that have suffered oppression and harm due to racism, sexual violence, domestic violence, incarceration, homelessness and poverty.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to Marketa Edwards at thecommunityrisingproject@gmail.com
Youth Represent strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Youth Represent provides criminal and civil reentry legal representation to young people age 24 and under, assisting them with everything from rap sheet review to school suspensions to employment discrimination and any other legal needs they identify. We also engage in policy advocacy, identifying priorities for legislative change based on what we see in our practice and what we hear directly from young people, who are experts on their own needs. Our interdisciplinary approach allows us to understand the full extent of our clients’ legal and practical challenges so we can effectively represent them as they make the journey from courtroom to community.

Youth Represent has worked with thousands of young people over the years, helping them review their conviction records and fix errors, and challenging employers who discriminate against them based on records. Our young clients are some of the 2.3 million New Yorkers who live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction records. Because Raise the Age legislation passed in 2017 was not retroactive, some of them were convicted when they were not yet 18 years old. Hundreds of thousands more were convicted when they were still teenagers and emerging adults.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass **S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)**. Any questions can be directed to Kate Rubin, Director of Policy (krubin@youthrepresent.org; (646) 759-8079.
CNY Solidarity Coalition strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The CNY Solidarity Coalition is an all-volunteer, grassroots community organization, founded in 2017. Each week, our newsletter reaches nearly 2,400 Central New Yorkers. We are dedicated to truth, justice, democracy and peace. We stand with people of color, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQI people, the Muslim community, the Jewish community, women, people with disabilities, people with mental illness, the Deaf community and all other individuals and groups that are being marginalized, oppressed or targeted in these uncertain times.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.
We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to cnysolidarity@gmail.com
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Westchester for Change strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Westchester for Change is a group of community activists working for progressive social and political change. We are an independent activist organization composed solely of volunteers committed to educating ourselves and the community and to engaging in political action.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Susan Van Dolsen svandolsen@gmail.com and Diane Torstrup dtee42@gmail.com.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Cannaware strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Cannaware is a cannabis education and lifestyle organization, that was created to ensure all underserved communities have an affordable and accessible path to the cannabis plant and industry. Since 2017, our mission has been to be a force of social change by providing education, curating social experiences, and advocating for cannabis justice while fostering the economic and social development of communities affected by cannabis prohibition. We aim to bridge the gap between New York's underserved communities and the cannabis industry, as we work to raise the level of consciousness around cannabis.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Grizzly Bocourt, Executive Director, grizzly@cannaware.
Date: February 15, 2023  
Re: Pass Clean Slate: Support from Law Enforcement Action Partnership  
To: New York Senate and Assembly

Dear Senators and Assembly Members,

Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) urges you to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029) before the end of this year’s legislative session.

LEAP is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

The Clean Slate Act (S.211 - Myrie / A.1029 - Cruz) is legislation in Albany to address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. 2.3 million New Yorkers have a conviction record, and because of racism in our criminal legal system, these civil consequences disproportionately impact Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life. As recent data shows, 80% of individuals in New York City with conviction records are Black or Latinx. The Clean Slate Act would address this injustice by automatically sealing old conviction records once someone has successfully completed their sentence, is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new charges or convictions after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies.

The bill has a powerful and diverse array of support throughout the state, including New York’s major unions, business leaders like JP Morgan Chase, and local governments in NYC, Westchester, Buffalo and Albany. See full list of Clean Slate supporters here.

LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org
Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
The Clean Slate Act would be life changing for millions of New Yorkers and could be a key element of our economic recovery. It would improve community safety by allowing all people to access jobs, housing, and other life essentials. It is exactly the kind of common-sense legislation that we need right now. More info on the Clean Slate NY website.

We urge you to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029) this legislative session.

Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.)
Executive Director
Law Enforcement Action Partnership
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The National Center for Law and Economic Justice strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The mission of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice is to advance racial and economic justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country. We use impact litigation and creative legal advocacy to advance civil rights, economic justice, and fair and equal access to employment, workplace rights, and public benefits.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life. We see this with the communities we work with throughout the state, including in Buffalo, where people of color face continual economic barriers from aggressive and discriminatory overpolicing of communities of color.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Anjana Malhotra at malhotra@nclej.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The Broome County ABLE Reentry Program strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

With over thirteen years of providing care coordination and advocacy, the ABLE Re-Entry Program has assisted over two thousand individuals return from incarceration back into Broome County, New York.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Jeff Pryor, Director of Reentry Services for Broome County, New York, JPryor@stapinc.org.

Respectfully,

Jeff Pryor
Exodus Transitional Community (Exodus) submits this memorandum calling for the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act as a way to create opportunities for the millions of New Yorkers impacted by the criminal legal system.

Founded in 1999, Exodus is a preventative, reentry and advocacy organization built on the recognition that individuals released from incarceration need resources and support to transition successfully. We serve 3,000 New Yorkers every year, over 90% of whom are people of color. We offer a myriad of programming for people affected by – or at risk of – justice involvement. Services include: youth empowerment and diversion, substance use disorder treatment, non-traditional and traditional forms of therapy, arts, workforce development, and transitional reentry services (case management, assistance obtaining vital documents, CBTs, support groups/mentorship). We also engage in robust policy/advocacy to end a racially discriminatory era of mass incarceration that has become a defining feature of America.

At this moment in history, 2.3 million New Yorkers — our family, friends, neighbors — live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Their convictions block them from accessing employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. And because racism is embedded in our criminal legal system, these civil consequences disproportionately impact African American and Latin New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life. It’s incumbent upon us now to change the course of history.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open — to a job, a place to live, and education — can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civil life. It’s not enough to make a clean break from the past. The stigma of a past conviction crops up as a roadblock to the future.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life’s essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies — not including time incarcerated once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offense convictions are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Kandra Clark, Vice President of Policy and Strategy at kclark@etcny.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act - S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The Southern Tier AIDS Program strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

With over thirty-nine years’ experience with HIV service provision, as well as a commitment to HIV, Hepatitis and LGBTQ-related education in our communities, and over fifteen-years working with those returning from the criminal justice system, STAP is dedicated to compassionately and competently meeting the evolving needs of our communities by serving people those involved with the criminal justice system through care coordination and advocacy.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Mr. Jeffrey Pryor, Director of Reentry Services, J Pryor@stapinc.org.

Respectfully,

John Barry

ADVOCACY BETTERMENT LEARNING EMPOWERMENT
Brooklyn Defender Services strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

BDS Provides multi-disciplinary and people-centered criminal, family, and immigration defense, as well as civil legal services, social work support and advocacy to nearly 30,000 people and their families in Brooklyn every year. BDS’s Employment Practice represents individuals who face employment consequences due to an arrest or criminal conviction.

More than 2.3 million New Yorkers have a criminal record of some kind. According to a recent study from the Brennan Center for Justice, some 337,000 New Yorkers have spent time in prison, missing out on $1.9 billion in earnings every year. This burden is disproportionately borne by Black and Latino New Yorkers, who together make up nearly three-quarters of this population. The collateral consequences of convictions burden justice-involved people long after their sentences end. Research indicates that a criminal conviction reduced by 50 percent the likelihood of a callback on initial job applications. And justice-involved people are currently ineligible for many jobs. In New York, those with a criminal record face more than 100 employment bars and professional licensing restrictions. Now is the time for New York to take action to stop the perpetual punishment of people with criminal records.

Currently, New York provides only limited opportunities for sealing. Since 2017, people convicted of certain nonviolent crimes – and who have no more than two convictions, only one of which can be for a felony – have been able to apply to have their records sealed after 10 years. But even when relief is granted, records are retained, and they may be made available to law enforcement or government offices in specific circumstances. Under the current sealing laws, people must also proactively apply for sealing. Few, however, have actually

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1 https://www.dfs.ny.gov/reports_and_publications/press_releases/pr1612212
6 N.Y. Crim. Proc. Law § 160.59(8)–(9).
done so, suggesting that candidates may not know sealing is available or are deterred by administrative barriers from apply.  

BDS’s Employment Practice provides legal representation and informal advocacy to people facing employment discrimination due to current or prior contact with the criminal justice system. The people we serve face numerous formal and informal barriers to employment. Many are completely excluded from employment opportunities due to their criminal histories, long after they have served their sentences. Some clients are prevented from pursuing their desired career paths because their convictions render them ineligible for state licenses, or they cannot join professional associations due to their conviction record. Some of our clients do obtain a license despite their criminal record, only to then fail a background check by a private employer in regulated industries. Our clients who apply for jobs in fields where their convictions do not automatically preclude them from obtaining employment know that once an employer conducts a background check, the odds that they will lose out on a job offer increase exponentially because of the stigma associated with their criminal record. Furthermore, we routinely encounter clients who are not eligible for sealing under New York’s current laws. The automatic sealing and expungement provisions in Clean Slate will allow our clients to live with the confidence that they will not be prejudged when applying for jobs solely because of their criminal records.

BDS’ client, Ms. V, is a fifty-nine (59) year old who has five criminal convictions on her record, all of which occurred between 1986 and 1988. Since 1988, Ms. V has had no contact with the criminal justice system. Notwithstanding the fact that she has been a law-abiding citizen for the last thirty-four (34) years, she continues to face several barriers to employment. Ms. V has been rejected from multiple jobs throughout the years due to her criminal record and is forced to work multiple part-time jobs to provide for her family. Ms. V describes her 1988 felony conviction as “a shackle” that she cannot break free from.

Similarly, BDS currently represents Ms. P who has worked as a Home Health Aide for over twenty years. Ms. P regularly experiences employment discrimination on the basis of her non-violent drug-related convictions from the late 1990s and early 2000s. Even though her convictions are over twenty (20) years old, they will always show up on background checks. She is still dealing with the fallout from these cases: BDS is currently representing her in a case against an employer who revoked her job offer because of her criminal record.

7 Aaron Morrison, “Nearly 600,000 New Yorkers Are Eligible to Have Their Records Sealed. Fewer than 1,800 Have Succeeded.,” The Appeal, October 8, 2019, https://theappeal.org/nearly-600000-new-yorkers-are-eligible-to-have-their-records-sealed-fewer-than-1800-have-succeeded/.
The Clean Slate Act will tremendously change the lives of people like Ms. V and Ms. P. The Clean Slate Act will automatically seal old conviction records for civil purposes. A person is eligible for relief under Clean Slate when they have completed a three-year waiting period for misdemeanor convictions and seven-year waiting period for felony convictions, not counting time served in prison. Additionally, individuals must complete probation or parole and they must have no pending criminal charges in New York. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Jade Morrison, Supervising Attorney and Policy Counsel at 347-768-0994 or jmorrison@bds.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Open Buffalo strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Our mission is to advance racial, economic, and ecological justice. We do so through skill building, network connecting, and activating leadership opportunities. Our goal is for all communities in Western New York to thrive free from discrimination and poverty.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New
Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Devon@openbuffalo.org.
Prison Policy Initiative strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The non-profit, non-partisan Prison Policy Initiative produces cutting edge research to expose the broader harm of mass criminalization, and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society. Among other issues posed by mass criminalization, our research documents the lasting impact of incarceration on people returning to their community.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to akajstura@prisonpolicy.org.
February 23, 2023

Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Legal Aid Society of Nassau County joins with other public defender offices throughout the State and other stakeholders/advocates urging the legislature to immediately pass the Clean Slate Act [S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)].

The Legal Aid Society of Nassau County is the primary provider of indigent legal services in Nassau County. Our mission is to provide high quality legal representation and related services to people who lack the financial resources to retain an attorney. Our staff consists of attorneys, social workers, investigators, paralegals and administrative staff who are dedicated to the mission of the Society and to rendering the most effective representation of our clients.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers our clients routinely experience in employment, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this NOW! We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses
hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive. Respectfully, the Clean Slate Act is a public safety measure which will reduce crime and recidivism.

Clean Slate is crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate is also pro-family legislation will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

The Legal Aid Society of Nassau County urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to N. Scott Banks, Attorney in Chief of the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

N. Scott Banks
Hour Children strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Based in Queens, NY, Hour Children’s mission is to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families and build healthy independent and secure lives.

The passage of The Clean Slate Act will remove one of the major obstacles facing all of the women and families we serve. Under the current system, Hour women who have done remarkable work to reunite with their children, get training and education and establish a work record still face a lifetime of marginalization due to their records. They are denied apartments, jobs, licenses and other opportunities years after they have successfully reentered the community. Not only are their lives at stake, but also the security and flourishing of their children.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system.

Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Hour Children’s Executive Director, Alethea Taylor at ataylor@hourchildren.org.

Thank you.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Monroe County Public Defender’s Office strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Monroe County Public Defender’s Office is an office that provides legal representation to individuals in criminal court and family court proceedings who are unable to afford to hire an attorney, also known as indigent individuals. The Public Defender’s Office is a branch of the Monroe County Government that was founded to fulfill the constitutional obligation of each county in New York State to provide indigent legal defense.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Julie Cianca.

Respectfully,

Julie Cianca
Public Defender

10 N. Fitzhugh Street • Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 753-4210 • fax: (585) 753-4234 • www.monroecounty.gov
The Bronx Defenders strongly supports the immediate passage of the Clean Slate Act, S211 (Myrie) / A1029 (Cruz).

Today, 2.3 million New Yorkers—our family, friends, neighbors—live in a state of perpetual punishment because of their conviction record. Their convictions block them from accessing employment, housing, education, and other life essentials that enable individuals to thrive in their communities. Because of racism in our criminal legal system, these civil consequences disproportionately impact Black and brown New Yorkers and deepen already-existing racial inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass Clean Slate legislation that would automatically clear conviction records for all New Yorkers who have successfully served their sentence.

Clean Slate would provide meaningful automatic sealing of criminal convictions for millions of New Yorkers and is a critical step towards repairing the harm caused by decades of overpolicing and underinvestment in communities of color in the Bronx. The destructive legacy of New York City’s “broken windows” approach to policing and the millions of criminal convictions it left in its wake continue to be a weight on the shoulders of our clients, their families, and their communities. The Clean Slate Act represents an investment in the Bronx’s future, in its recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in its resilience.

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1 The Bronx Defenders is a public defender non-profit that is radically transforming how low-income people in the Bronx are represented in the legal system, and, in doing so, is transforming the system itself. Our staff of over 350 includes interdisciplinary teams made up of criminal, civil, immigration, and family defense attorneys, as well as social workers, benefits specialists, legal advocates, parent advocates, investigators, and team administrators, who collaborate to provide holistic advocacy to address the causes and consequences of legal system involvement. Through this integrated team-based structure, we have pioneered a groundbreaking, nationally-recognized model of representation called holistic defense that achieves better outcomes for our clients. Each year, we defend more than 20,000 low-income Bronx residents in criminal, civil, child welfare, and immigration cases, and reach thousands more through our community intake, youth mentoring, and outreach programs. Through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community organizing, we push for systemic reform at the local, state, and national level. We take what we learn from the clients and communities that we serve and launch innovative initiatives designed to bring about real and lasting change.
In an effort to mitigate the harms of a conviction record, New York State passed application-based records clearance in 2017. But this has proven to be an inadequate remedy. In the half-decade since the law went into effect, fewer than 0.5 percent of eligible people have had their records cleared, a rate consistent with other states that have application-based record clearance laws. The law is complex and difficult to navigate, often requiring legal assistance.

But the impact of records clearance is significant. Our economy loses $87 billion in gross domestic product every year from shutting workers with records out of the labor market. People with criminal records make hundreds of thousands of dollars less over a career than those who without those records. However, research shows that a year after getting a record cleared, people are 11 percent more likely to have a job and are earning wages that are more than 20 percent higher than beforehand. That research also suggests that after record clearance, people with histories of contact with the criminal legal system are convicted less often than the general public with no prior contact.

This relief should be available to all New Yorkers. We strongly support the immediate passage of S211 (Myrie) / A1029 (Cruz), which would allow people with conviction histories to meaningfully rejoin their communities after criminal legal involvement. Specifically, this bill would first automatically seal convictions for most civil purposes after a 3-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a 7-year period for felonies, not including time incarcerated, and after completion of community supervision. This would ensure people have access to stable employment and housing as well as increased educational opportunities.

Conviction histories erect lasting barriers to economic security and full engagement in the community, affecting not only individuals but also their families, neighborhoods, and New York State as a whole. New York has a long history of enacting important reform to support full participation in the life and economy of this state. We must continue this tradition by passing Clean Slate legislation.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S211 (Myrie) / A1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Johari Frasier at jfrasier@bronxdefenders.org.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)
College & Community Fellowship strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Founded in 2000, College & Community Fellowship (CCF) envisions a world where all people, regardless of criminal justice histories, have equitable access to opportunity. CCF fills a unique niche and supports reentering women while they obtain college degrees and leadership skills that promote long-term self-efficacy and civic engagement.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nearly 50% of children have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing,
Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Maria Santangelo msantangelo@collegeandcommunity.org.

Maria Santangelo
Acting Deputy Executive Director
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Hudson Valley Strong: Protecting our people, our values and our environment through individual action

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Barbara Walsh, co-chair, Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible, voteblueorelse@gmail.com, 914-489-7184.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

CSS uses a multifaceted approach to attack income inequality in New York. We have been at the forefront of this work for more than 175 years, changing our strategy and focus as the times demand. Today we engage in policy work, legislative advocacy, impactful direct services programs and litigation in order to help create a fairer, stronger New York.

CSS comes to this work from many years of advocating on behalf of New Yorkers facing steep hurdles due to conviction records. A conviction history can act as an insurmountable barrier to securing living-wage employment and housing, and to full participation in the life of our city and state. Due to discriminatory policing and prosecution practices, these barriers are disproportionately borne by people of color. CSS’s Legal Department has focused exclusively on working with and for persons with conviction histories for more than a decade. We litigate on behalf of individuals and groups who have suffered actionable discrimination because of their records, and we engage in policy and legislative advocacy to make systemic change.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Stephen Dunn, Senior Staff Attorney.
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

The Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice is a community organization based in Brooklyn, New York, with members all across the state. Our mission is to develop the leadership and organizing capacity of community members, advance evidence-based solutions to achieve healthier, safer, and equitable communities, and to end mass criminalization, mass incarceration and the war on drugs.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A recent study found New York loses an estimated $7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state’s workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, research showed people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to our director of advocacy, Yonah Zeitz at yonah@katalcenter.org
TO: NYS Legislators

RE: Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act

S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz)

The National Action Network strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). NAN is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the Nation with chapters throughout the entire United States. Founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, nationality, or gender.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / S.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to Derek Perkinson, NYS Field Director & Crisis Director, (646) 659-9850, derekp@nationalactionnetwork.net.

Sincerely,

Derek Perkinson
NYS Field Director
Crisis Director
National Action Network
derekp@nationalactionnetwork.net
Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act  
S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)  

Long Island Fair Housing Services strongly supports the immediate passage of S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz).

Long Island Housing Service focus on fair housing was established in 1969. LIHS’ mission is the elimination of housing discrimination and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are subjected to perpetual punishment long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open—to jobs, a place to live, an education—can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, disproportionately impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

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We urge the Legislature to immediately pass S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz). Any questions can be directed to [insert organizational point of contact].