Improves Public Safety

Individuals should be held accountable in a way that ensures the harm caused does not occur again. However, public safety is undermined when over 90% of Oregonians once eligible are unable to remove the stigma of a past conviction or arrest. Everyone deserves redemption and the opportunity for a second or even first chance in life. However, a criminal record that impairs access to education, employment, housing, credit, and other opportunities can make their journey seem impossible.

Clean Slate Automation does not change or expand records eligible for expungement under existing law. Instead, automation applies a technological solution to fix a broken, outdated legal process that contributes to overburdened courts and makes it unnecessarily harder for people to re-enter society successfully.

People who have better access to jobs are less likely to commit offenses and are more likely to be positive contributors to their communities. This is why broad bipartisan support continues to grow for Clean Slate Automation as a means to increase public safety.

Supports Families and Personal Responsibility

Nearly half of all children in the United States have a parent with some kind of record, which impacts family stability. When a parent cannot clear their record, the long-term adverse impacts for innocent children range from poor school performance to hindered cognitive development. Clean Slate Automation will help break this cycle and accelerate opportunities for people to obtain greater financial stability, employment security, and a sense of dignity and purpose.

Advances Responsive Government

Responsive, effective government protects the life and liberty of its citizens without creating excessive regulations, interference, or taxes. Implementing an automated record clearance system removes unnecessary, harmful governmental barriers. However, Oregon's clearing process remains highly burdensome. The costs are prohibitive and the process too complex.

Clean Slate Automation will ensure rights are restored once eligibility is met, eliminating significant inefficiencies of the current petition-based system. It is estimated that at the current pace of record sealing using Oregon's existing petition-based system, it would take a staggering 77 years to clear all records of those eligible. We must do better. Automating the expungement process is the solution.

Monumental Investment In Oregon's Workforce

Amid historic labor shortages, Oregon's workforce desperately needs development, investment and revitalization. Automating expungements will benefit Oregon businesses of all sizes by drastically expanding the applicant pool of qualified potential workers.

Expungement automation is good for workers and Oregon's economy. Only one year after record clearance, research shows that people are 11% more likely to be employed and earn 22% higher wages. And at a time when it seems our country can't agree on anything, making expungements more accessible and just enjoys rare bipartisan support with 70% of Americans across party lines in support.

Please join in support of SB 698

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Automating record clearance and expanding expungement eligibility reduces recidivism, improves public safety, and contributes to economic growth.