Bipartisan Clean Slate Legislation is critical to rebuild and revitalize Oregon’s workforce. Oregon businesses are facing historic worker shortages. Employers want to equip workers with the ability to provide for themselves and their families. However, Oregon’s existing petition-based expungement system remains a barrier for over 90% of all Oregonians eligible to have past arrests or convictions sealed. This hurts individuals, families and our economy.

Automated record relief for those eligible will unleash access to a ready, diverse, and underutilized talent pool. 94,000 job vacancies in Oregon. Employers continue to struggle to fill positions. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for people with a criminal record is over 27% or 5 times higher than the state average. Workers are 11% more likely to be employed and earn 22% higher wages just one year after having their records cleared.

Why Oregon Needs Clean Slate Automation?

- Nearly 9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 5 colleges use background checks to screen out applicants which contributes to homelessness, poverty and crime.
- People with conviction and arrest records are 50% less likely to receive a call-back from a potential employer.
- 77 years is the estimate of how long it would take to process all eligible legal records relying on Oregon’s existing petition-based system.
- The U.S. economy loses as much as $87 billion in GDP per year due to the underemployment of people with criminal records.
- Automating record relief reduces recidivism and increases chances for successful reintegration into society.
- Clean Slate would immediately help tens of thousands of Oregonians, expanding the workforce and strengthening the economy.

Automated Record Relief Will Make Oregon a Better Place to Live and Work

After automating record clearance, states have seen increases in wages, employment, and livability. By removing barriers to employment and housing, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians with arrest or conviction records can rebuild their lives with dignity.

New Jersey (2019) Oklahoma (2022)
Michigan (2020) Colorado (2022)
Connecticut (2020) California (2022)

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