

July 17, 2025

Senate President Don Harmon
Senator Li Arellano, Jr.
Senator Chris Balkema
Senator Terri Bryant
Senator Bill Cunningham
Senator Laura Ellman
Senator Laura Fine
Senator Suzy Glowiak-Hilton
Senator Michael Halpin
Assistant Senate Majority Leader Linda Holmes
Senator Meg Loughran-Cappel
Senator Laura Murphy
Senator Mike Porfirio
Senator Sally Turner

RE: SB 1784, JUV CT-COMMITMENT-AGE

Dear Senators:

As a representative of Illinois' 1.4 million small businesses, we urge you to support SB 1784, known as Clean Slate, legislation that automates the process of sealing criminal records to help our fellow Illinoisans get back to work and strengthen our communities.

Illinois is a great place to live and work, but many Illinoisans face barriers to economic participation. We need to ensure that everyone who is ready to work can find employment so that our economy can continue growing. More than 3 million Illinoisans have some form of a criminal record, many from offenses long in the past. Even after people have completed their sentences and remained crime-free, these records often continue to create barriers to employment mobility, housing and education.

Small businesses drive the economy by creating two out of three net new jobs, and they need employees to fill them. Many Illinoisans with a criminal record have valuable experience in skilled trades or have acquired degrees that would make them able to solve workforce gaps in construction, manufacturing, emerging technology and care services. By automating the process for sealing old records, Clean Slate will help millions get back to work while allowing small businesses to tap into a vast, productive talent pool.

Clean Slate is a commonsense solution that has increased employment, reduced recidivism and higher earnings for workers with sealed records in other states. By removing outdated barriers that limit economic growth opportunities, you would improve workforce access, support public safety, and strengthen Illinois families. I respectfully urge you to vote in support of SB 1784.

Sincerely,

Geri Sanchez Aglipay
Senior Fellow, Small Business Majority