

CLEAN SLATE

LOUISIANA

Louisiana faces several challenges connected to its criminal legal systems: the highest incarceration rate in the country, a high poverty rate and no easy way to clear old criminal records. Clean Slate policy in Louisiana, introduced as HB 604, opens up access to current expungement law for everyone through a government-initiated process. HB 604 is a balanced and smart approach to reducing recidivism and helping people get back on their feet after they have served their time.

WHAT WOULD A CLEAN SLATE POLICY MEAN FOR LOUISIANA

A clean slate can remarkably change the lives of Louisiana's children, half of whom have a parent with a criminal record. Removing barriers to employment for parents can help ensure their children have stable housing, perform better in school, and can even improve children's employment achievements into adulthood.

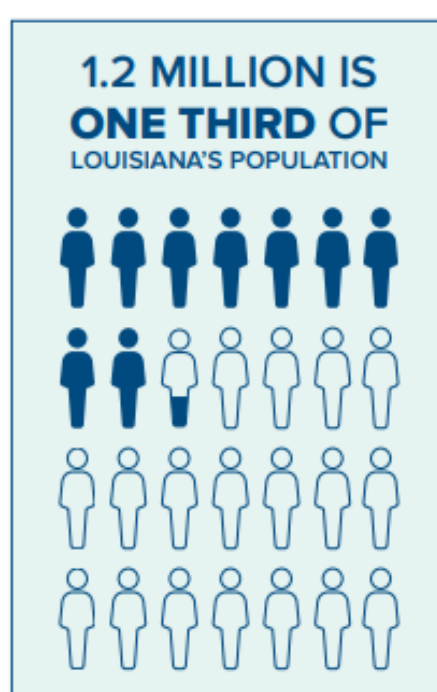
A clean slate ensures that we won't hamstring our post-COVID-19 economic recovery by preventing the **1.2 MILLION Louisianans living with criminal records** from returning to the workforce.

A clean slate makes Louisiana safer by getting more people back to work, thereby reducing recidivism through higher employment rates.

A clean slate saves all Louisiana taxpayers money by reducing the court system costs that currently go towards processing record-clearing petitions.

A clean slate means that everyone looking for work post COVID-19 has a fair chance at finding employment and supporting local businesses.

Individuals who receive expungements pose a lower crime risk than the general population. According to a Michigan study, 99% of people receiving expungements were not convicted of a felony any time in the subsequent 5 years.



LOUISIANA'S RECORD CLEARING PROCESS IS EXPENSIVE AND OVERLY COMPLICATED

- Louisiana has the highest filing fee (\$550) in the country.
- Almost every parish has a different process for the steps to take for expungement filing.
- On average, attorneys charge about \$2,000 to file an expungement for someone with a criminal record.
- Louisiana requires frequent individual follow-ups.
- Studies have shown that only about 5% of people who are currently eligible for expungement actually complete the process and clear their record.

**A CRIMINAL RECORD
SHOULDN'T BE A LIFE
SENTENCE TO POVERTY.**



JOIN THE CLEAN SLATE COMMUNITY COALITION

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