

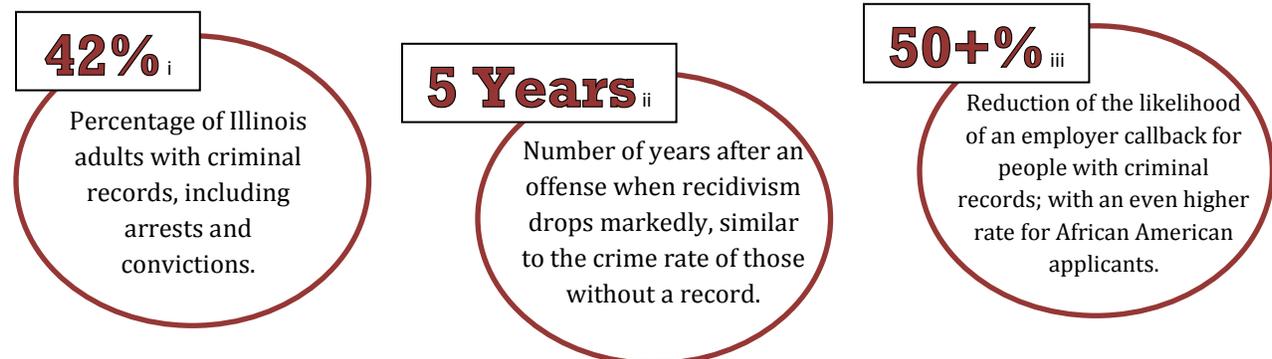
Support HB 2373: Expand Record Sealing Eligibility

Lilly – Cassidy –Hernandez – Gordon-Booth – Davis, Guzzardi, Ford, Nekritz, McDermed, Skillicorn, Greenwood, Fine, Thapedi, G. Harris, Chapa LaVia, Harper, Mayfield, Evans, Ammons, Mah, Soto, Welch, Mitchell, Slaughter, B. Wheeler, Flowers, Tabares, Riley, Gabel, Turner, Conyears-Ervin, D. Burke, Rita, Currie, Williams, Arroyo.

HB 2373 expands eligibility for the sealing of felony convictions, allowing more people to petition the Court for consideration. Sealing helps people secure employment, housing and educational opportunities that can otherwise be denied because of past criminal records.

What HB 2373 Does	What HB 2373 Does Not Do
<p>1. Expands the types of felony convictions eligible for sealing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Certain convictions already an exception in the sealing law remain ineligible, including sex offenses, domestic battery, violations of orders of protection, animal crimes and DUIs/reckless driving. <p>2. Allows people a chance to go before a court for an individual consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Courts consider five factors when deciding to seal records: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The strength of the State’s case 2) Petitioner’s employment and educational history 3) Length of time since the conviction 4) Public safety reasons the records should remain unsealed 5) Adverse consequences if the sealing is denied 	<p>1. Does not automatically seal records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individuals must file a petition in each district where they have an arrest or court case. ➤ The court always has discretion to seal past records. <p>2. Does not immediately seal records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A person must wait three years from the <i>completion</i> of their last sentence. <p>3. Does not seal records from all agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Law enforcement always has access to sealed records agencies; and ➤ Employers that require fingerprinting for employment, such as schools, park districts, health care organizations, and financial institutions always have access to sealed felony records through the Illinois State Police.

Each and every day, nearly 4 million men and women in Illinois are being denied opportunities to decent employment and housing. Current law and practices prevent hard working, law abiding individuals the chance to move forward without the stigma and barrier of a criminal record.



i. National Employment Law Project, “65 Million Need Not Apply,” March 2011.
 ii. Pager, D. *The Mark of a Criminal Record*, American Journal of Sociology, 108(5), 937-975 (2003).
 iii. Blumstein and Nakamura, *Redemption in the Era of Widespread Criminal Background Checks*, NIJ Journal No. 263, June 2009

HB 2373 is supported by the Restoring Rights and Opportunities Coalition of Illinois (RROCI), a coalition of individuals directly impacted by the criminal justice system, organizers and policy staff from:



For more information, or to sign on as a supporting organization, please contact:

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Supporting Organizations

- ACLU of Illinois
- Chicago Jobs Council
- Chicago Urban League
- Cook County Public Defender's Office
- Growing Home, Inc.
- Jane Addams Resource Center (JARC)
- James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy
- John Howard Association
- Illinois Justice Project
- League of Women Voters of Illinois
- Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration
- Safer Foundation
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- TASC, Inc.
- Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI)
- Uptown People's Law Center
- Woodstock Institute