



The Clean Slate Act of 2023

Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Nancy Mace (R-SC)

Supported By: American Conservative Union, Brennan Center for Justice, Center for American Progress, Clean Slate Initiative, Code for America, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, Faith and Freedom Coalition, JPMorgan Chase, Justice Action Network (JAN), LinkedIn, Responsible Business Initiative for Justice, Right on Crime, R Street, Third Way, Due Process Institute, and Business Roundtable

Cosponsors: *Trone, Armstrong, Kuster, Donalds*

State-level Clean Slate laws: Pennsylvania, Utah, Michigan, Connecticut, Delaware, Oklahoma, Colorado

What is Clean Slate?

One in three Americans – over 100 million people – now have some type of criminal record and even a minor criminal record can lead to barriers in employment, housing and education. Background checks are commonly used for screening purposes. According to the National Consumer Law Center and Stewart & Uggan, 94% of employers, 90% of landlords, and 72% of colleges and universities use background checks for hiring, tenant screening, and evaluating prospective students, respectively.

The Clean Slate Act would automatically seal the records of nonviolent drug-related crimes and create a new, streamlined record sealing process for other qualifying, nonviolent crimes. Once Americans complete their sentences and demonstrate they have not committed any additional crimes after release, they deserve the opportunity to become productive members of society. By supporting the *Clean Slate Act*, we can give Americans a second chance to live productive and fulfilling lives.

The Clean Slate Act would:

- Automatically seal an individual's federal criminal record if they have been convicted of simple possession or any federal nonviolent offense involving marijuana.
- Create a new procedure that allows individuals to petition the United States Courts to seal records for nonviolent offenses that are not automatically sealed.
- Require, within 180 days, automatic sealing of arrest records and other related records for individuals that have been acquitted, exonerated, or never had charges filed against them.
- Require individuals to wait two years to re-petition the court if their initial request was denied.
- Authorize district courts to appoint a public defender to help indigent petitioners file and successfully seal their records.
- Protect employers from liability for any claim arising out of the misconduct of an employee if the misconduct relates to a sealed criminal record.

The Clean Slate Act contains common sense exceptions:

- The bill would **NOT** allow sex offenders to seal their records.
- The bill would **NOT** allow those convicted of terrorism, treason, or other national security-related offenses to seal their records.
- The bill would **NOT** allow for the sealing of records if a petitioner has been convicted of other violent crimes.

For questions or to cosponsor, please contact Alicia Porile in Rep. Blunt Rochester's office, Alicia.Porile@mail.house.gov, or Randal Meyer in Rep. Mace's office, Randal.Meyer@mail.house.gov.