

## **The Clean Slate Act**

*Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)*

### **What is Clean Slate?**

As many as **100 million or 1 in 3 Americans** – now have some type of criminal record. Clean slate would enable individuals to have qualifying nonviolent misdemeanor convictions automatically sealed after they remain crime-free for a set period of time. Minor records or even an arrest can lead to barriers in employment, housing, and education. According to the Center for American Progress (CAP), roughly **9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 5 colleges are now using background checks.**

Having even a minor criminal record can be a life sentence to poverty for people with a record and for their families. The lifelong barriers associated with having a criminal record also take a **toll on the national economy through the cost of losses, which are as high as \$87 billion in lost GDP per year**, according to CAP. This is why it is time to let people earn a clean slate once they've proven their ability to remain crime free for a set period of time. By supporting the *Clean Slate Act*, you are supporting giving people a second chance to live a productive and fulfilling life.

### **The Clean Slate Act would:**

- Automatically seal a person's federal record if they have been convicted of a nonviolent offense under section 404 of the Controlled Substances Act (this would include misdemeanor drug crimes like simple possession) and any federal nonviolent offense involving marijuana.
- Allow individuals to petition the United State Courts to seal records for nonviolent offenses that are not automatically sealed.
- Direct the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to create a universal form, available over the Internet and in paper form, that an individual may use to file a sealing petition.
- Create a two-year window for individuals to re-petition the court if their initial request was denied.

*To cosponsor please contact Ian Spears in Rep. Blunt Rochester's office*  
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