



# Everyone Deserves a Fresh Start

## Ex-Offenders Face Heavy Entry Barriers to Employment

**600,000** people leave prison each year, but ...



**more than 60% of these people remain unemployed** a year after rejoining society, partially due to tens of thousands of **licensing restrictions** from occupational licensing boards.



## What's the Solution?

**Get these individuals back to work.** Research shows that **WORK** plays a significant role in preventing dependency and is an indicator of how likely someone is to reoffend.

Balance public safety and economic opportunity

REQUIRE LICENSING BOARDS TO:

1

### BE SPECIFIC

Licensing boards list the specific, directly related criminal convictions that could lead to the denial of a license and can only consider convictions with a clear link to working safely in an occupation.

2

### BE TIMELY

Licensing boards may only disqualify applicants with directly related convictions for five years. This restriction applies if the convictions were non-violent or non-sexual, provided that applicants remain crime-free.

3

### BE CLEAR

Licensing boards offer applicants the ability to find out if their criminal record will disqualify them from licensure at any time even before applicants start the mandated education or training.

**Did you know?**

Once a nonviolent offender is crime-free for three to four years, they are no more likely to commit a crime than the average person.

# Fresh Start helps individuals get back to work and off welfare.

## The Facts



We can be **tough on crime** and prevent the cycle of dependence.



Fresh Start can **save taxpayers some of the \$80 billion** spent each year on incarceration costs by lowering recidivism rates.



We can **protect** public safety and peoples' ability to work at the same time.

Nothing in this legislation stops licensing boards from **disqualifying people with criminal records that pose a direct threat to public safety** from working in certain occupations.

## It's Trending



### TENNESSEE

allows those with records to find out if they'll be approved before they invest in required training.



### MASSACHUSETTS

requires licensing boards to list specific criminal convictions that can disqualify an individual from obtaining a license.



### INDIANA

allows non-violent offenders who remain crime free for 5 years to have a true "fresh start."



### WISCONSIN

ensures that an individual's record does not automatically disqualify him or her from a license.



### KANSAS

prevents boards from using blanket bans for disqualification, such as "moral turpitude or good character."

## BOTTOM LINE



**Everyone makes mistakes. However, government has overreacted, leading to more dependence and more crime. Ex-offenders need work. They need a fresh start.**