THE PROBLEM: People with criminal records are being deterred from getting an education.

- The majority of colleges ask about an applicant’s criminal record. But, asking this question has a chilling effect – discouraging individuals with criminal records from completing the application.

- With about 45% of Illinois adults having a criminal record, it is critical that we address this barrier to education.

- As of the Fall of 2018, the common application no longer asks about an applicant’s criminal record.

THE SOLUTION: “Ban the box” in the higher education admissions process.

- Banning the box prevents higher education institutions from asking about or considering a person’s criminal record for purposes of admission.

- Banning the box does not prohibit a college or university to consider a person’s criminal record after admission, including for offering campus housing, participating in campus activities, or to provide career counseling.

Higher education dramatically reduces recidivism and helps individuals build financially stable futures.

ACLU Illinois
Supporting Organizations

ACLU of Illinois
Cabrini Green Legal Aid
Catholic Conference of Illinois
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Urban League
Community Renewal Society
Growing Home, Inc.
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Illinois Asset Building Group
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
John Howard Association
Latino Policy Forum
League of Women Voters
Mexican American Legal Defense Fund
Safer Foundation
SEIU – Healthcare
United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
Uptown People’s Law Center
Voices for Illinois Children
Woodstock Institute