

Support HB 3142: Increasing Educational Opportunities for People with Criminal Records

Passed House with bipartisan support (Wheeler, B-Flowers-Gordon-Booth)

Senate Sponsors: McGuire-Martinez-Van Pelt-Aquino-McConnaughay-Raoul-Lightford-Collins-Jones-Steans-Biss-Althoff-Hunter-Hutchinson-Koehler-Harmon-Castro-Sims

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.

The Solution: HB 3142 will “ban the box” in the higher education admissions process.

- HB 3142 prevents higher education institutions from asking about or considering a person's criminal record for purposes of admission.
- HB 3142 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.
- HB 3142 still allows campuses and universities to use the common application, which helps ensure a higher number of applicants.

Evidence shows that asking about a criminal record at admission does nothing to protect public safety, but seeing the “box” on school applications prevents individuals from trying to apply to higher education.

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

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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

