

I would like to voice my support for Bill # 1019.

In my opinion everyone deserves a second chance. Once someone has paid his/her debt to society by serving time incarcerated, I think that person is entitled to attempt to go back to a more normal life. At the present time, now that background checks are available to almost anyone, formerly incarcerated folks are most likely denied housing, employment and educational opportunities. If they had their records expunged, they'd really have a chance of resuming their lives.

They would allow the individual to have more self- confidence and respect for themselves. They would be able to provide for a family, be a full fledged citizen by getting off welfare, if they are on it, and pay taxes, vote and be participating members of society with no stigma.

I haven't read the bill yet, but I hope that it includes counseling for 3 - 6 months before release to help the person looking forward to release to anticipate and be more prepared for life "on the outside." Certainly someone who has been locked up for 20 - 10- 5 years needs some help to rehabilitate and to anticipate the changes and challenges they are going to face on "the outside." Going along with that, I think the re-entry centers should have increased funding so that they can service all released formerly incarcerated to navigate their lives while they get readjusted and work toward expungement

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