

March 8, 2021

To the Honorable Senator Winfield, the Honorable Representative Stafstorm, and distinguished members of the Joint committee on Judiciary:

My name is Susan Randolph. I reside in Bolton, Connecticut and am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society: East. I am writing in support of Raised Senate Bill No. 1019—the Clean Slate Bill. As a white woman living in a suburb of Hartford I urge passage of this bill as a matter of fairness to all those who have completed their sentences. I have no fear that a strong Clean Slate bill would endanger me or my family. It is simply wrong to punish people for the rest of their lives for a misdemeanor or non-violent crime as current background check practices effectively do by reducing their access to employment, education and housing and reducing their wages in the event they are able to secure a job. Nor should their families suffer increased risk of poverty and homelessness. Given that nearly half of American children now have at least one parent with a criminal record, current practices dramatically and unfairly reduce the opportunities of half of American children. Passing the Clean Slate Bill would also be an important step toward ending structural racism given the fact that Black and Latinx people continue to receive harsher and longer sentences for the same crimes as white people. Finally, the lingering impact of having a criminal record, especially a felony conviction, robs all of us of the contributions those who have served their sentences can make to our society.

Thank you,

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Economic and Social Rights Empowerment Initiative and SERF

Index: <http://www.serfindex.org/>

*Co-Founder & Economic and Social Rights metrics lead Human Rights Measurement Initiative:*

<https://humanrightsmmeasurement.org> & [rightstracker.org/en](http://rightstracker.org/en)

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