In Texas, we believe in safe communities and second chances. Yet across our state, millions suffer the far-reaching impacts of a criminal record. Whether a conviction for a felony or a misdemeanor, a diverted or deferred sentence, or merely an arrest, a criminal record can trigger a net of legal prohibitions and diminished opportunity that have little to do with public safety. Barriers that make it difficult to find gainful employment, secure stable housing, or support a family make it harder to escape the cycle of crime and can be a lifetime burden. When our loved ones, friends, neighbors and community members are barred from fully participating in society and our economy, we all lose out.

Research suggests that clearing records will not create a risk to public safety, and will, in fact, improve public safety by increasing access to jobs, housing, and educational opportunities that promote community re-integration and stability. Studies show that one year after a record has been cleared, people are 11% more likely to be employed and earn 22% higher wages. That means thriving families, safer communities and fewer taxpayer dollars spent on unemployment benefits and other public assistance.

THE SOLUTION: A CLEAN SLATE FOR TEXAS

Clean Slate Texas's vision is to ensure equitable access to second chances. Our record clearance laws should deliver the outcomes that they promise: second chances for people with minor criminal histories. By enacting Clean Slate reforms that automate the record clearance process and expand eligibility, we can ensure that impacted Texans who have turned their lives around receive the relief that they have earned.

Our supporters include: Alliance for Safety and Justice, Clean Slate Inc., R Street, Statewide Leadership Council, Texas Appleseed, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Texas Fair Defense Project, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Trinity Restoration Ministries
Clean Slate Texas was formed in 2020 and represents a broad statewide coalition of organizations and stakeholders that share a common mission: to advance policy that fosters equitable opportunity by reforming the Texas record clearance process. Join Us! For more information, see: cleanslatetexas.org