NEW WINGS:
EXPANDING SECOND CHANCES

Clean Slate *Texas*

TEXAS NEEDS NEW WINGS

Texas law provides for the sealing of some records of a person's criminal arrest, charge, or conviction through a process called nondisclosure. However, eligibility is very limited, preventing many Texans from a second chance even after they have completed their sentence.

New Wings would expand record sealing services to the many Texans who have completed their sentences but still carry the barriers and burdens of a criminal record. Under New Wings, nondisclosure eligibility would be expanded to include all people who have fully discharged their sentences after a crime-free waiting period of up to 10 years, the length of which varies depending on the original conviction.

WHAT IS A NONDISCLOSURE?

A criminal record that has been *sealed* will no longer show up on background checks used by nearly 9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 5 colleges. With a nondisclosure, these records are hidden from the public but are still visible to law enforcement, courts, and other sensitive agencies.

WHO WOULD NEW WINGS BENEFIT?

Justice-involved Texans and their families:
Nearly half of children in the U.S. have a parent with a criminal record, restricting access to employment, stable housing, and educational opportunities. The University of Michigan found that after record clearing, people are 11% more likely to be employed and earn 22% higher wages. New Wings would expand these benefits and more to families across Texas.

Communities across Texas:
People who receive record clearing services have very low recidivism rates, sometimes even lower than the average adult crime rates. In Michigan, just 4% of all recipients of record sealing reoffend within 5 years, mostly for nonviolent misdemeanors. As a result, our communities will be safer.

The State government and Texas taxpayers:
Reduced incarceration would allow Texas to save money on the criminal justice system and reinvest Texans' tax dollars elsewhere.