

#WORKINGfuture

A campaign led by JLUSA

Every person has the right to be treated with dignity, and we all deserve the opportunity to thrive.

For more than 70,000,000 people in the United States with a criminal record. Over 45,000 barriers and exclusions threaten our livelihoods and well-being.

We Say ENOUGH.

The [#WORKINGfuture campaign](#) is led by people with records organizing to challenge and remove the devastating policies that create barriers and exclude us from employment, food access, housing, voting, and other basic human and civil rights. We believe that everyone deserves access to affordable basic services, safety in their communities, and dignity in their lives — **no matter where we live or what our record states.**

Decades of structurally racist economic policies preceded the War on Drugs, tough on crime policies, and mass incarceration — but the last six decades of carceral policymaking has led to a systematic and unprecedented theft of wages, skills, and safety. While millions of workers search for what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the dignity of labor," the **45,000 laws and statutes** continue to relegate people to a perpetual second class status, and further economic injustice in the same communities most harmed by racist policing and mass criminalization.

In 2018, the #WORKINGfuture campaign released the [Bill of Rights for Criminalized Workers](#) — a blueprint to restore the civil and human rights of people with records and formerly incarcerated people. With this new Bill of Rights as a framework, we are organizing across the U.S. to overturn harmful laws and policies, and ultimately redefine the standard of economic justice for **all** workers.

- In Rhode Island, the campaign is building grassroots momentum behind occupational licensing reform - call your assemblymember and demand that they support Rhode Island's [House Bill 5863](#) and [Senate Bill 610](#), that will end discriminatory blanket bans on occupational licensing and expand employment opportunity for people with records.
- In South Carolina we are mounting municipal and state-level Ban-the-Box campaigns, including an effort to introduce a comprehensive ordinance in the State's capital, Columbia, as well as a state-level employment act that would eliminate the question of a prior conviction on all public applications, H. 3463.
- In Michigan, we are launching community-driven efforts to expand narrow expungement laws and challenge laws that undermine fair chance hiring and the expansion of work requirements into health care.

We need a new era in the U.S. that centers human dignity with racial and economic justice for everyone.

Join us to organize for a #WORKINGfuture for all!
justleadershipusa.org/workingfuture