

CALL NOW TO DEMAND THE SENATE JUDICIARY PASS HOUSE BILL PACKAGE 4980-85

In November 2019, House Bill Package 4980-85 passed through the Michigan House. The bill package expands expungement (set asides) to include a wider array of misdemeanors, felonies, and traffic offenses as well as makes the process automatic for certain offenses.

We are waiting for a Senate hearing so that we can enact these reforms in 2020. This is what you can do to help make that happen.

STEPS TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

1. Call as many of the Senators listed below as you can, particularly if you are in one of their districts.
2. Ask to speak to the policy aide for the Senator. If there is no answer, leave a message and proceed with the script. If they say that person is unavailable, ask to leave a message and proceed with the script.
3. Optional: Use some of the talking points/facts below to tell your own story.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

- Pete Lucido (Republican - Macomb County): 517-373 -7670
- Curt VanderWall (Republican – District 35): 517-373-1725
- Jim Runestad (Republican – Oakland County): 517-373-1758
- Ruth Johnson (Republican – Oakland and Genesee County): 517-373-1636
- Tom Barrett (Republican – Ingham County) - 517-373-3447
- Stephanie Chang (Democrat –Detroit): 517-373-7346
- Jeff Irwin (Democrat – Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti): 517-373-2406

CALL SCRIPT TEXT:

“Hi, my name is [Your Name] and I am a Michigander from [City or County]. I would like to talk to Senator [Senator’s Name] policy aide regarding expungement legislation.

I believe that a conviction should never be a life sentence. Too many Michiganders are forced to encounter a lifetime of barriers long after completing their sentence.

We urge you and your colleagues to pass House Bill Package 4980-85 with no further carve outs and to expand what is eligible for automatic set aside.

Our community’s economic security and safety depend on fair chances and a Clean Slate. Thank you for your consideration.”

FACTS TO INCLUDE:

- 28% of adult Michiganders have a criminal record. That is almost one-third.
- Approximately 50,000 Michiganders are convicted of felonies every year.
- Approximately 2,196,000 Michiganders are living with a criminal record.
- Only 6.5 percent of people who are eligible under the current law, apply for an expungement. This is because expungement is a costly and complicated process. Other reasons are because they don’t know they are eligible, cannot afford a lawyer, cannot afford to take time off of work, cannot afford to travel to the courthouse, or don’t understand the process.

- People who have been able to get their records expunged, report earning 25 percent more within two years. This is because of the high rates of unemployment or temporary employment for people with records.