



5/13/22

To: Senator Warren Limmer, Chair Representative; Carlos Mariani, and Public Safety Conference Committee.

On behalf of the clients and staff that Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge serves, I am expressing support for the Clean Slate Act that is being considered by the Judiciary & Public Safety Conference Committee.

The bill, if it becomes law, will benefit our staff and clients, giving them a second chance, and removing barriers to employment by increasing the number of non-serious, non-violent offenses that qualify for automatic expungement. Thus, the bill will protect public safety while eliminating significant barriers to occupations, jobs, and licenses. Per the bill's language, the Minnesota Department of Human Services would continue to have access to records for the purpose of background studies. Lastly, the revised language specifically excludes all felony and criminal sexual conduction convictions, among other ineligible offenses.

We have worked with you, our champions in the Legislature, over the years to eliminate unnecessary barriers to treatment, recovery, employment, and careers for persons who have committed offenses as a result of their alcohol or drug disorders with due consideration and preservation of public safety. Considering the workforce crisis, we are currently facing adding these individuals back into our Substance Use Disorder workforce without delay will make a difference. Our understanding is that the bill has bi-partisan support because it is precisely designed to balance these two policy purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Rich Scherber
Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge

