

KYGA 2024 DIGITAL TOOLKIT

LIBERATION IDENTIFICATION

ACLU
Kentucky

2024 DIGITAL TOOLKIT

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LIBERATION IDENTIFICATION

OVERVIEW

Liberation Identification is movement to implement a statewide program providing state-issued photo identification to all people leaving incarceration in Kentucky.

When leaving incarceration in Kentucky, too many people are re-entering their communities without a vital tool: a photo ID. To meet needs critical to survival and success upon reentry—including housing, employment, nutrition assistance, healthcare, mental health services, and substance use treatment—providers and employers require state-issued photo identification. The lack of one creates a barrier blocking the very first steps on a new path forward.

Unfortunately, the process of securing a photo ID is burdensome, requiring documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, and/or other state-verified papers that people do not have access to when leaving a prison or jail. Obtaining this paperwork often takes time and resources. Even after procuring documents, people leaving incarceration face transportation and financial challenges trying to obtain an ID through local government.

Without investment in foundational supports like an ID program, Kentucky will continue to pay the high budgetary, economic, and social costs of incarceration and recidivism. We must commit to proactive, common-sense strategies to strengthen our state and its residents. We must implement a statewide program providing state-issued photo identification to all people leaving incarceration.

LIBERATION IDENTIFICATION

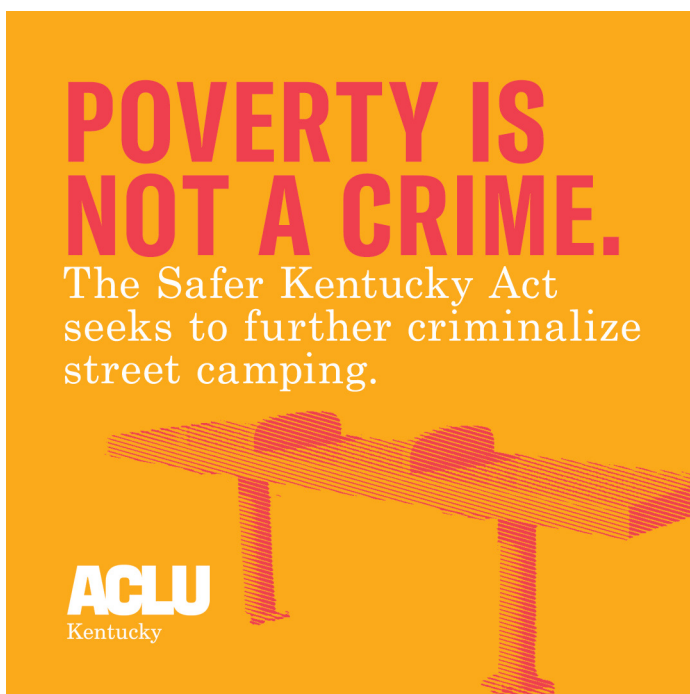
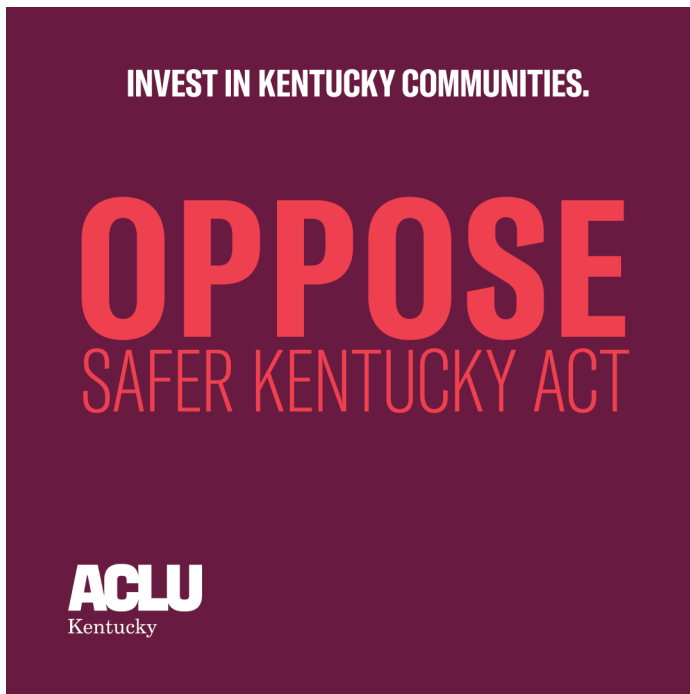
TALKING POINTS

- When leaving incarceration in Kentucky, too many people are reentering their communities with a key tool needed for survival: a photo ID.
- Kentucky has an incredibly high incarceration rate, and it is very difficult for people who serve their sentences to be successful community members without a government-issued ID.
- To reenter the workforce, Kentucky's returning residents need a valid form of identification, instead of a release sheet with a mug shot.
- Identification is essential to securing employment, housing, transportation, nutrition assistance, health care, mental health care, and substance use treatment.
- Without identification, formerly incarcerated individuals are unable to transition into communities in positive ways effectively. People who reenter the community without access to IDs for work are more likely to return to the criminal legal system, continuing to drive these trends and costs in the wrong direction.
- The current process of securing an ID is prohibitively confusing, complicated, and expensive. It requires access to documents like birth certificates, social security cards, and other state-verified papers that may take months and hundreds of dollars to obtain.
- Research shows that the first few weeks after release are critical to successful re-entry and preventing recidivism. It is vital to make this transition as smooth as possible, and a large missing element is the access to identification.
- Kentucky has the second-lowest workforce participation rate in the country despite a growing number of fair chance employers willing, able, and motivated to hire people who have paid their debt to society.
- Kentucky's incarceration rate persists as the sixth highest in the nation, and our recidivism rate exceeds 35%. Each barrier people face during reentry after incarceration increases the likelihood that they will return to the criminal legal system, continuing to drive these trends — and the costs of incarceration and recidivism — in the wrong direction.
- An annual investment of \$250,000 is all that is needed to formalize and continue the existing successful reentry ID pilot program partnership between the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Kentucky Department of Corrections, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Kentucky Chamber Foundation.
- We must add this to the 2024 Budget as a line item. The bill has strong bipartisan support and will help communities across the Commonwealth.

SOCIAL MEDIA

When posting about legislative issues, always check the ACLU of Kentucky's channels for content to share! We are @ACLUofKY on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Threads](#). Following our feed is the best way to find up-to-date information and graphics. If you want to make your own posts about this issue, here is some sample text. Add personal stories and details to make more impact!

GRAPHICS



SOCIAL MEDIA (cont.)

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: FACEBOOK

Lawmakers are considering a massive bill that will incarcerate more Kentuckians and cost taxpayers millions of dollars. It recycles old, failed policies dating back to the 70s. Join me in calling your representatives in Frankfort and telling them: locking up more Kentuckians won't make our communities any safer. Call your Senator or Representative and tell them to OPPOSE the Safer Kentucky Act.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: TWITTER/X

The #saferkyact won't make us any safer. We need real solutions to the root causes of crime in our communities. Tell lawmakers they can do better. Call your state rep or senator and tell them you OPPOSE the "Safer Kentucky Act." #KYGA24 #dontincarcerateourstate

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: INSTAGRAM

Tell lawmakers to go back to the drawing board – the "Safer Kentucky Act" doesn't make anyone safe. We need real solutions to the root causes of crime, not failed policies with a new name. Tell your representatives in Frankfort they can do better. Call your state rep or senator and tell them you OPPOSE the "Safer Kentucky Act." #KYGA24 #dontincarcerateourstate

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: THREADS

The #saferkyact won't make our communities any safer. We need real solutions to the root causes of crime in our communities, not failed policies under a new name. Tell your representatives in Frankfort they can do better. OPPOSE the "Safer Kentucky Act." #KYGA24 #dontincarcerateourstate

TRADITIONAL MEDIA

SAMPLE OP-ED - AIM FOR 500-750 WORDS

A variety of individuals write opinion articles, or op eds, for news media to share. Sometimes they are certified experts, sometimes they are everyday people who feel strongly about an issue. These brief essays can help the audience better understand a complicated issue or help them relate to something they haven't personally experienced. These pieces can be extremely powerful and persuasive.

If you would like assistance reviewing, drafting, editing, or pitching an op-ed to newspapers, reach out to someone on the communications team. We are happy to help!

FORMS OF PERSUASION (USE ONE OR MORE):

- **Personal Experience:** The writer describes an experience he or she has had.
- **Expert Opinion:** The writer draws on the opinion of an expert—someone trained in a particular area, or someone who has relevant personal experience.
- **Example:** The writer provides an example that supports a larger idea or pattern.
- **Analogy:** The writer compares the situation to another similar situation.
- **Facts and Statistics:** The writer uses facts or numbers to prove their idea. Often this information comes from other sources, such as books, newspapers, or websites.
- **Logic:** The writer uses reasoning or logic to argue their point.
- **Emotion:** The writer makes an emotional appeal to the reader.

I. INTRODUCTION

- Hook:** The beginning is your chance to capture your reader's attention. What can you start with that will compel your audience to pay attention? Perhaps an anecdote or surprising fact?
- Context:** Now back up a little bit. Explain what the issue is at hand. In a few lines, provide some background and context.
- Thesis:** Finally, make an argument. Tell your reader where you stand on this issue.

TRADITIONAL MEDIA (cont.)

II. FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Evidence #1:** Describe the central piece of evidence that supports your position.
- b. **Tie Back:** Make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.

III. SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Evidence #2:** Describe a second piece of evidence that supports your position. Try using a different type of persuasion (see list below).
- b. **Tie Back:** Again, make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.

IV. THIRD BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Counter Argument:** What would be the main argument of the opposing side?
- b. **Rebuttal:** What is your response to this argument? Why doesn't it apply to this situation/context?

V. CONCLUSION

- a. **Summary:** In just a few lines, remind your reader of the main argument and evidence.
- b. **Thesis:** No need to repeat your thesis word-for-word but remind readers what you're arguing and why they should care.
- c. **Personal Comment, Call to Action, or Question:** The last few sentences of your essay will linger in your reader's mind? What do you want to leave them with?

When submitted an opinion article, include a photo and a brief 1-2 sentence biography for the news outlet to publish along side your piece.

TESTIMONY

TELL YOUR STORY

Have you even wondered who the people are who sit in front of lawmakers in Frankfort to talk about issues affecting our communities? They're everyday Kentuckians who are passionate about making Kentucky a better place for their families, helping communities thrive, and moving Kentucky forward.

Anyone can testify at a committee hearing in Frankfort. Committee hearings are where bills are discussed and voted on, so they can move from their committee assignment to the full legislative chambers. Amendments and bill language can change all the way up to the full vote, and testimony can influence legislators' opinions on how our laws should read.

Everyone is passionate about something, and Kentucky's General Assembly conducts business in committee hearings with real-world implications for everyone who lives here. And while it may seem like a lot of work to prepare testimony, travel to Frankfort, and spend time in a hearing room waiting for lawmakers to hear from us, it is vital to our democracy.

Take the subject of IDs on reentry, for example. Lawmakers need to hear from Kentuckians who have actually experienced incarceration, or who have loved ones who have struggled to succeed after serving their sentence. People of color and Kentuckians from marginalized communities that are overpoliced, people who have experienced incarceration, and people who work alongside these populations are all potential voices for testimony. Lawmakers can only work with the information they have, and if the people of Kentucky don't talk about how bills will impact them, the legislature will write the laws governing our people without the complete picture.

If you're interested in testifying in Frankfort, let us know! We can help draft, edit, and polish your testimony and even attend the hearing with you (as long as we have available staff that day). See the Contact page at the end of this toolkit.

SCRIPTS

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Every call counts! When you call legislators to tell them how you would like them to vote on a certain bill, they receive a physical piece of green or red paper, representing your view. Many lawmakers say they are influenced by how many green or red slips they receive. These slips are what make phone calls so effective.

Calling the legislative message line is toll-free and only takes a few minutes. Call every day if you have the time. You don't even have to know your legislators' names but be prepared to share your address so operators can send your message to the right place.

1-800-372-7181

TELEPHONE SCRIPT

My name is [NAME] and I am your constituent. I am calling to voice my strong opposition to HB 5, the "Safer Kentucky Act," and urge you to take up legislation that will invest in Kentucky communities. Thank you.

EMAIL SCRIPT

My name is [NAME] and I am your constituent. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the HB 5, the "Safer Kentucky Act," and urge you to take up legislation that will invest in Kentucky communities. Thank you.

CONTACT US

Our work and our democracy depend on participation from all Kentuckians. Help protect democracy in the commonwealth and make your voice heard.

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CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

The Legislative Research Commission was created in 1948 as a fact-finding and service agency. The Commission operates as the administrative and research arm of the General Assembly.

At the LRC website, you can find out who your legislator is, see who has filed bills, read the draft of bills under consideration, view committee schedules and agendas, and more!

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-372-7181

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

<https://www.legislature.ky.gov>

LIVE LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE ON KET

Kentucky Educational Television — KET — is Kentucky's largest classroom, serving more than two million people each week via television, online, and mobile.

Most Kentuckians can't travel to Frankfort to testify or meet in person with legislators. KET live streams committee hearings and activity on the House and Senate floors for free, so anyone can watch and listen to the issues being discussed first-hand. Learn more at www.ket.org.