

# CLEAN SLATE AND EXPUNGEMENT

We all make mistakes, and no person should have to carry the burden of unfair consequences for the rest of their life. Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to pay their debts and restart with a clean slate.

## A CRISIS OF MASS INCARCERATION:

**If Kentucky were its own country, it would have a higher incarceration rate than any other democracy on earth, including the U.S.** This is driven largely by the failed war on drugs, with 30,000 Kentuckians behind bars. Additionally, as of November 2022, there were just under 20,000 Kentuckians incarcerated for a felony conviction and another 61,000 under state supervision.



### A COMMUNITY ISSUE:

Having a past conviction can make people ineligible for job opportunities, professional licenses, housing assistance, education, volunteering with their children's activities, and more. Expungement lowers rates of recidivism by offering people a clean slate and opportunity to move forward as full members of their communities.



### AN ECONOMIC ISSUE:

Past convictions can prevent people from contributing to the workforce and, by extension, contributing to the state's tax base. Kentucky is in the bottom 10 states for workforce participation and the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people is 27%.



### AN EQUITY ISSUE:

Black Kentuckians make up 12% of our state's population, but a staggering 22% of Kentucky's incarcerated population. Unjust Kentucky laws and overpolicing of Black and Brown communities disproportionately and unfairly harm Black and Brown families.

## CLEAN SLATE LEGISLATION AND EXPUNGEMENT:

Clean Slate legislation would increase access to expungement by implementing an automated process that would eliminate fees, relieving people of the burdens of requesting and paying for expungement. The legal system should never treat people differently based on their wealth.

# #3

KY has the 3rd-highest women's incarceration rate.

# #2

KY has 2nd-highest rate of children with an incarcerated parent.

# 2X

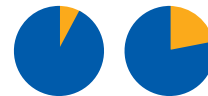
Black women are incarcerated at 2x the rate of white women nationally.

## 300,000

Kentuckians have been convicted of a felony and are burdened with lifelong consequences that harm them, their families, their communities, and our economy.

## 243,000

Kentuckians with a past felony conviction have completed their entire sentence, probation, and parole. They deserve a fair shot at getting back on their feet and contributing to their communities.



Only 8% of Kentuckians are Black, yet Black people make up 22% of Kentucky's incarcerated population.