

## Issue Advocacy in Illinois

### **With The Cook County Board of Commissioners on Reducing Housing Discrimination In Cook County Against Those Who Have Been Arrested and Those Who Have Been Convicted of a Crime.**

Supporting the initiative the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance and Housing Action Illinois to amend the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance to prohibit landlords:

- from refusing to rent to an individual because of an arrest record and
- from having a policy of not renting to anyone who has been convicted of a crime,

To incorporate HUD guidance under the Fair Housing Act into a Cook County Ordinance (Landlords would retain the right to consider prior convictions on an individual basis.)

See: <https://www.cafha.net/jhi-subpage2>

1. This summer - Fill out a the Endorsement Form, available at the website above, to endorse the proposed amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance, and send in the completed form to Patricia Fron, Executive Director, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, 401 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1101, Chicago 60605
2. This summer - Use the "post card" forms, which will be available at the website above, to obtain signed endorsements of the proposed Amendment by:
  - getting individual citizens of Cook County to fill out and sign the post card form,
  - collecting the signed forms, and
  - returning them (for sorting and presentation to the Commissioners for the districts in which the individuals reside) to Patricia Fron, Executive Director, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, 401 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1101, Chicago 60605

For more information go to the website above or contact Patricia Fron at [pfron@cafha.net](mailto:pfron@cafha.net)

### **With Cook County Officials on Supporting and Expanding Bond Reform in the County**

Going go online to sign the [petition to support bond reform](#) asking the criminal justice stakeholders in the Cook County Government and the Cook County Court System to protect the important bond reforms implemented in September 2017 and to work to ensure their full implementation.

Writing and calling Sheriff Tom Dart to demand that he obey the law and stop refusing to release accused people that the courts have ordered to be released pending trial:

at (312) 603-6444, [sheriff.dart@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:sheriff.dart@cookcountyil.gov) or 50 W. Washington St. Chicago 60602

See: *Dart's Misguided Approach to Jail Reform* at:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-dart-misguided-jail-reform-toni-preckwinkle-0313-story.html>

and *No need for Tom Dart to be gun-shy on bail reform* at

<http://www.chicagoreporter.com/no-need-for-tom-dart-to-be-gun-shy-on-bail-reform/>

### **With Governor Rauner, on Signing Important Legislation into Law**

Contacting the Governor, individually or with others, to ask him to sign the bills promoting criminal justice reform that passed the Legislature, and that need his signature to become law (partial list)

#### **Penalties and Corrections**

- [HB 3920](#) (Driving on a Suspended License) to reclassify as a petty offense (rather than a Class A misdemeanor) the first two instances of driving on a suspended license due to unpaid traffic fines and failing to pay support or to comply with visitation orders. It passed t

- [HB 4888](#) (Data Collection re Corrections Issues) to require the inclusion of specific data, such as incidence of violence in correctional facilities, parole revocations by county, completion of evidence-based programs, vacancy rates at work-release centers, in Department of Corrections' quarterly report, to enable executive team to review, identify trends and take steps to mitigate violence.

#### **Diversion**

- [SB 3388](#) (Incentives to Counties to Divert Those Charged to Community Based Services) to expand eligibility to participate in Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI) to all probationable offenses
- [SB 3023](#) (Substance Abuse) to create the Community-Law Enforcement Partnership for Deflection and Addiction Treatment Act to allow law enforcement to facilitate contact between community members and substance use treatment providers.

#### **Registries and Collateral Consequences**

- [SB 3489](#) (Registration of Offenders) to allow individuals required to register on the Murder and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry to request review of any errors in the information that led to the registration mandate.
- [SB 336](#) (Use of Medical Marijuana) to authorize the Department of Public Health to establish the Opioid Alternative Pilot Program The program to allow treatment of a medical condition with medical marijuana rather than an opioid, and to remove the restriction for individuals with conviction for "excluded offenses" on eligibility for a cannabis registry identification card.
- [SB 2560](#) (Publication of Criminal Records) to provides that any website that publishes criminal record information for profit shall correct any errors in a record within 5 business days of notification of the error and shall not publish booking photographs for civil offenses and offenses that are classified as less than a Class A misdemeanor.

#### **Court debt**

- [HB 4594](#) (Court Fees and Costs) to organize and consolidate court fees and costs that are imposed on court users and create a sliding scale fee waiver for poor criminal defendants.
- [HB 5341](#) (Sealing Criminal Records) to prevent denial of sealing petition for unpaid fees, fines or assessments ordered by a court, law enforcement or other units of government.

#### **Prisoner rights:**

- [HB 4469](#) (Voting Rights)- to insure that people held in jails in Illinois can vote - [Here is a story on that measure.](#)
- HB 5104 (Medical copay) to abolish the \$5 copay that IL inmates must pay to see a doctor

#### **Gun safety:**

- SB 3256 (Gun Purchase Waiting Period)- to increase the waiting period on all gun purchases to 72 hours.
- HB 2354 (Firearms Restraining Order) to allow family or law enforcement to petition the courts to have a firearms temporarily removed from the home of a person determined to be a risk to themselves or others.
- SB 337 (Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act) to require that Federal Firearms License holders in Illinois be certified by state police.

#### **With the Illinois State Legislature:**

*[Find your state rep's contact info here.](#)*

Advocacy Needed With Illinois State Legislators Over the Summer on Pending Legislation

Supporting the proposed SAFE ACT (Illinois House Bill 5308), which passed the Senate with members of the House, for passage in the November "veto" session

This legislation would mobilize state economic development and social service agency outreach to the communities most damaged by violence.

- For more information on the SAFE Act, including a fact sheet and a supporters list, please visit [www.iljp.org/thesafeact/](http://www.iljp.org/thesafeact/).

Opposing Senate passage of the revised "car jacking" bill (Illinois Senate Bill 2339), Mayor Emanuel's proposal, as amended in the House, to eliminate proof of intent and to reinstitute incarceration of juveniles accused of possessing a stolen vehicle.

(It is also important to ask the Governor to veto an even more amended version of the bill (Illinois House Bill 1804 / Illinois Senate Bill 2), which changes definitions and is opposed by the ACLU and

- see: "Cracking down on armed carjacking in Chicago and the suburbs," Sun-Times Feb. 12

### **Advocacy Needed for other Legislation Proposed This Year But Not Discussed Above in Connection with Results of the Spring Legislative Session**

#### Suspension of Drivers Licenses

Supporting Illinois Senate Bill 2411 (the "License to Work Act", a practical proposal of great value that would eliminate an existing law that allows drivers licenses to be suspended for non-driving offenses, thereby depriving people of the ability to keep a job and driving many poor (mostly black and brown) citizens further into poverty and often into a life of crime.

Action needed to encourage your state Senator to support this legislation

For more information see the Action alert of the Safer Foundation at:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102405162255&ca=bf4df71b-7cff-4171-a582-a2b8103bbaeb>

#### Sentencing Reform:

Supporting Illinois House Bill 3355 – To Implement Recommendations of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Learn more from: Ben Ruddell - [bruddell@ACLU-il.org](mailto:bruddell@ACLU-il.org)

#### Juvenile Justice:

Supporting Illinois House Bill 531 – to reintroduce parole in Illinois for juveniles

Learn more from: Jobi Cates: [jcates@restorejustice.org](mailto:jcates@restorejustice.org)

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4473 - to require that a juvenile be brought before a judge within 24 hours of arrest to determine whether he or she should be further held in pre-trial custody

Learn more at: [jjj@jjustice.org](mailto:jjj@jjustice.org)

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4336 - to raise the age of juvenile detention to age 13 from age 10

Learn more from: Jennifer Vollen-Katz of the John Howard Association: [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org) and from Elizabeth Clarke at [bc@jjustice.org](mailto:bc@jjustice.org)<[bcjuv@aol.com](mailto:bcjuv@aol.com)>

Supporting Illinois Senate Bill 1265 - to mandate lawyers for children during interrogation

Learn more from Elizabeth Clarke at [bc@jjustice.org](mailto:bc@jjustice.org)<[bcjuv@aol.com](mailto:bcjuv@aol.com)>

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4543 - to implement youth support services to provide alternatives to detention and to prevent deeper criminal involvement

Learn more from: <http://www.uuani.org/>

#### Prisoner Rights and Opportunities:

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4505 - to authorize Illinois to participate in the Federal Prison Industry Enhancement Certification ("PIE") Program, which would provide Federal funds to develop training programs for inmates in Illinois Prisons (details attached here)

Learn more from: Patrick Simon [patrick.simon@illinois.gov](mailto:patrick.simon@illinois.gov) or Michael Lane [michael.r.lane@illinois.gov](mailto:michael.r.lane@illinois.gov) at the Illinois Dept. of Corrections

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4741 - to safeguard prison visiting rights

Learn more from: Jobi Cates: [jcates@restorejustice.org](mailto:jcates@restorejustice.org)

Supporting House Bill 4888 - to require improvements in conditions, treatment, accountability and communication and structural changes in the operation of the Department of Corrections, and collection and sharing of information and data

*Learn more from Jennifer Vollen-Katz: [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org)*

Restrictions on Rights and Opportunities of Former Inmates and those convicted of a crime:

Supporting Illinois Senate "Path To Restoration" Bill 3489 - to allow individuals that are subject to registration after release from prison in the Violent Offender Against Youth Registry to amend incorrect information and appeal their inclusion in the database.

*Learn more at <https://www.imacentral.org/support-path-restoration/>*

Supporting Illinois House Bill 3142 - to prohibit colleges, universities, and trade schools from asking or considering an individual's criminal record for purposes of admissions

*Learn more from: Samantha Tuttle : [stuttle@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:stuttle@heartlandalliance.org)*

Supporting Illinois House Bill 5340, the License to Work Act - to eliminate the practice of restricting the rights to a driver's license or vehicle registration as a result of things such as a failure to satisfy a fine or penalty, failure to pay a taxes or civil penalties owed to the Illinois Commerce Commission, or being a convicted sex offender.

Maintenance of records of offenses:

Supporting Illinois Senate Bill 3415 - to permanently continue traffic and pedestrian data stop collection in Illinois

*Learn more from Chelsea Diaz at [CDiaz@aclu-il.org](mailto:CDiaz@aclu-il.org)*

Records of Eviction Proceedings

Supporting Illinois House Bill 4968 - to provide for sealing and impoundment of a court file for an ----- eviction action in which the court does not find that a tenant or an occupant has materially breached the lease

*Learn more from Bob Palmer at [bob@housingactionil.org](mailto:bob@housingactionil.org)*

Availability and Allocation of Resources

Identifying and Supporting: Legislation to redirect budget priorities toward social services and away from incarceration

See: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/recognition-of-budget-cuts-not-enough-time-to-fund-up/>

State Financial Resources

Supporting: Legislation to amend the Illinois' Constitution to allow enactment of a progressive income tax:

*Learn more from: Alex Tindal Weisendanger - [alex@responsiblebudget.org](mailto:alex@responsiblebudget.org)*

See also the Safer Foundation Legislative Update:at <http://www.saferfoundation.org/Safer-Policy-Institute/Policy-News/Articles/illinois-legislative-update-jun-1-2018>

**Political Organizations - Engaging with Political Organizations with a Focus on Criminal Justice Issues**

Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration - <http://lawenforcementleaders.org/>

The People's Lobby - <https://www.thepeopleslobbyusa.org/>

Critical Resistance – <http://criticalresistance.org/>

Responsible Budget Coalition - <http://www.responsiblebudget.org/>

Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression - <http://naarpr.org/>

**Training Opportunities in Illinois**

Restorative Justice Training - offered by:

- Trinity Nehemiah Rising - [bc@jjustice.org](mailto:bc@jjustice.org)<[bcjuv@aol.com](mailto:bcjuv@aol.com)>

Monday through Thursday, July 16-19

Monday through Thursday, September 17-20

*Learn more from* - Michelle Day at [mday2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mday2@sbcglobal.net)

- Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice - <http://www.ibarj.org/>
- Community Justice for Youth Institute - [https://www.facebook.com/pg/Community-Justice-for-Youth-Institute-141340905931890/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Community-Justice-for-Youth-Institute-141340905931890/about/?ref=page_internal)

Six-hour Circle Facilitator's Training workshop for leading covenant groups in prisons and jails, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois -.contact for information on schedule:

<http://www.uupmi.org/prison-ministries.html> and <http://www.uupmi.org/registration.html>

Radical Hospitality 101 - cultivating skills needed to work with currently or formerly incarcerated people, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois at the Third Unitarian Church, 301 N. Mayfield Ave, Chicago

*Learn more at:* <http://www.uupmi.org/radical-welcome.html>

Wellstone Foundation Training

*More information about these training opportunities at:* <https://www.wellstone.org/events>

Camp Wellstone training in progressive political action - April 27-29 in Seattle, May 19-20 in Minneapolis

Integrated Voter Engagement Training - April 25-26 in Topeka, Kansas

Data Analytics Camp - March 27-30 in Phoenix, May 22-25 in Cleveland

Digital Organizing School - April 23-26 in Durham, NC, June 11-14 in Washington, DC.