

## Advocacy in Illinois

### Advocacy Toolkit and Advocacy Training

Legislative Advocacy Training with Restore Justice Illinois Director Jobi Cates –recorded March 6, 2021, presented in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzfHkqvaEe4>

New Advocacy Toolkit of the Prison Policy Institute, a collection of guides and training materials issued in March 2022 that advocates can use to strengthen their campaigns to end mass incarceration  
Access it at [Advocacy Toolkit](#).

Legislative Advocacy Training with Restore Justice Illinois Director Jobi Cates –recorded March 6, 2021, presented in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois  
Watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzfHkqvaEe4>

### Funding Advocacy for Reform –

Help fund the work of Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice

Learn more about Appleseed’s extraordinary work, which you will be supporting at:

<http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Accomplishments-Final.pdf>

Donate to Appleseed’s annual appeal with a credit card or electronic check at

<https://secure.chicagoappleseed.org/np/clients/caffj/donation.jsp?campaign=60&secureIdCustomer=1&>

### Chicago City Council –

future action may be needed if the Proposed Chicago Gang Asset Forfeiture Ordinance resurfaces – \_calls and emails to alderpersons and to Mayor Lightfoot prior to the March 23, 2022 Chicago City Council meeting helped to stall the proposed ordinance, which would result in arbitrary asset seizures from black and brown communities. As of early May it hadn’t reappeared on the City Council agenda./

[Click here to send messages directly to Mayor Lightfoot and Your Alderperson – stop this ordinance.](#)

Link to the letter to the City Council from Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell regarding the proposed ordinance, consideration of which was tabled until March at the City Council’s February meeting:

<https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/news/public-defender-letter-chicago-city-council-regarding-proposed-gang-asset-forfeiture-ordinance>

### Advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly

#### Ongoing Advocacy with the Illinois State Legislature

You can learn more about the terms of a bill with simple search: e.g. for “HB \_\_\_\_ Illinois 2021”]

You can find details about the content and status of Senate and House Bills by number at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>

Find your Senator’s and Representative’s names and addresses here to register support or opposition to a bill: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>.

#### Recent Justice Reform Initiatives in the Illinois Legislature – New Special Senate Committee –

Illinois Senate forms a New Special Senate Committee on Public Safety to set legislative priorities on Criminal Justice Reform – See press release of February 6, 2020:

<http://illinoisenatedemocrats.com/caucus-news/8079-senate-dems-unveil-public-safety-priorities?platform=hootsuite>

**Defending the Pretrial Fairness Act and Other Provisions of the Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly in January 2021 from Misinformation and Political Pressure Attacking the Legislation –**

1. **Contact your legislator** through the following link, to ask him or her to support full implementation of the Pretrial Fairness and to **oppose the legislative proposals to gut or repeal the Pretrial Fairness Act in the 2022 fall legislative session:**  
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-your-legislator-to-see-the-pretrial-fairness-act-through-to-implementation>
2. Send a letter to your Illinois legislators urging them to reject attempts to water down the Pretrial Fairness Act, using the convenient link that you can find here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/defending-pretrial-justice-reforms-amidst-attacks?e=b9ab6d29a7>
3. You can also **go to this link** to write to your legislators– It will automatically let you thank them if they voted for the Pretrial Fairness Act (or let them know that you do not support their failure to do so):  
<https://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/take-action-pages/pretrial-fairness-act-follow-up?emci=207897ed-7c61-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&emdi=dacc2f04-b061-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&ceid=3222695>
4. You can also IDENTIFY YOUR LEGISLATORS AND SEND THEM EMAILS in support of HB3653 by going to: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/> and entering your address.

**Writing to Governor Pritzker thanking him for signing HB3653, the 2021 Criminal Justice Reform Act and asking him to veto any bills that water down the reforms enacted last year**  
<https://action.aclu.org/send-message/tell-governor-pritzker-support-accountability-and-criminal-justice-reform>

You can also leave a brief message thanking him for signing “HB 3653, the Criminal Reform Act” at:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx>

**Find Information about the Act at this link:**

**[Pretrial Fairness Act](#)**

**“New Detention System Under SAFE-T Act Will Make Us Safer”, October 3, 2020 Op Ed by Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart**

[http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=024c5dfc-cee7-4295-8cb1-0fe38f34342e](http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=024c5dfc-cee7-4295-8cb1-0fe38f34342e)

**Responding to Misinformation about the Act and the impact eliminating cash bail**

**Separating Fact from Fiction: the Pretrial Fairness Act, from the Chicago Community Bond Fund**

<https://chicagobond.org/2022/09/27/debunking-fake-news-about-the-pretrial-fairness-act/>

**Setting the Record Straight on the Safe-T Act, National Public Radio “The 21<sup>st</sup> Show, with J Hanley, Sharone Mitchell and Garien Gatewood**

[https://will.illinois.edu/nfs/21st\\_092022\\_segaandb.mp3](https://will.illinois.edu/nfs/21st_092022_segaandb.mp3)

**“Dollars and Sense in Cook County, 2021 analysis by Loyola University Chicago “s Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice, concluding that Cook County’s 2017 bond reform, which limited the use of cash bail in felony bond court, did not increase crime rates in Cook County**

<https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/resources/dollars-and-sense-in-cook-county/>

**Community outreach – Join a Community Canvass in support of the Pretrial Fairness Act –**

starting at noon on Wednesday October 15 at 945 West Belmont, and from 4:00 to 7:00 on Wednesday October 19, starting at 2800 North Broadway

get more information and register here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h-1P1DjxZYLfqqgqyiS7\\_uDzwm3BFYIEVggq21zl8BGE/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h-1P1DjxZYLfqqgqyiS7_uDzwm3BFYIEVggq21zl8BGE/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**Springfield Lobby Day** – Join the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice in Springfield, Wednesday November 16th to defend the Pretrial Fairness Act – kick off at 10am with a concluding rally at 3pm.

get more information and register here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEihHGVIi2CyscLJ73xSRHW6jAQKI28YPQ05\\_OJpSyt91ejg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEihHGVIi2CyscLJ73xSRHW6jAQKI28YPQ05_OJpSyt91ejg/viewform)

Join the Coalition to End Money Bond and subscribe to its mailing list at:

<https://endmoneybond.org/>

Youth sentencing in Illinois - [send a letter to your state senator through this prompt](#) in a continuing campaign to get the Illinois Senate to approve [HB 1064](#) to eliminate life without parole sentences for most people 20 and younger

Filing Online Witness Slips for Committee Hearings in the Illinois General Assembly – contact Avalon Betts-Gaston [avalon.betts-gaston@saferfoundation.org](mailto:avalon.betts-gaston@saferfoundation.org) of The Alliance for Reentry and Justice at to get on her distribution list for urgent messages with the legislature is in session about opportunities to fill witness slips online as a proponent of important bills that need our support and as an opponent of bad bills that we need to oppose. It takes less than a minute, and it makes a difference.

### **Highlights from the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly, concluded in April 2022** –

- Overall, the battles in this session, as in the past, focused on defending against attacks on prior reforms and defeating punitive bills, proposing sentencing enhancement and additional restrictions on the activities of those who have been convicted and served their time, which trend to figure as “accomplishments” in candidate mailings but cause great harm and do little or nothing to contribute to public safety.
- It is important to emphasize:
  - o the importance in these battles of committee hearings, and the witness slips that we submit in advance of those hearings, because failure of a bill to “make it out of committee” can prevent it from being considered, and
  - o the importance of the challenging work that takes place during the last week of a legislative session, when new bills are floated and amendments adopted in floor votes, often without much notice.
- Defending Fundamental Reforms – There was a successful effort to head off amendments to the justice reforms enacted a year ago (in the “SAFE-T Act”, which included the Pretrial Fairness Act), but the last-minute approval by the House (but not the Senate) of changes to the Act underlines the fact that major efforts will continue to be needed from now on to protect those reforms at any time that the legislature is in session.
- New Felonies and Penalty Enhancements – With the help of our witness slips, the advocacy community defeated bills that would have created a new felony for tampering with an electronic monitoring device and penalty enhancements that to single out attacks on employees of the Department of Children and Family Services, which are already subject to severe penalties.
- Confidentiality of Juvenile Records – The bill that would have compromised the confidentiality of juvenile records also failed to pass.

- Retail Theft – A big accomplishment of the advocacy community and the victims' rights community, which we supported with our witness slips, was to water down the much-hyped retail theft legislation proposed by the Retail Merchants Association with the support of Attorney General Kwame Raoul, which would have increased penalties for retail theft across the board, in spite of the fact that retail theft in Chicago is at its lowest level in decades and that the threshold for treating retail theft as a felony in Illinois is already among the lowest in the country. While disappointing, the penalty enhancements in the bill that passed are limited to narrower situations such as the actions of certain organized theft rings and theft that causes property damage.
- Lifetime Restrictions on Those Who Have Served Their Sentences. Among the disappointing outcomes in this session was the failure to pass the bill that we supported that would have repealed the law prohibiting people convicted of felonies from acting as an executor of an estate. Our witness slips contributed, however, to the defeat on a 13-13 tie vote in committee of HB2538, which would have restricted those convicted of a felony from being licensed the general contractor, adding to the hundreds of Illinois laws that already restrict the ability of people who have served their time to earn a living. Unfortunately, as Ben reports, we were unable to defeat the bill expanding the categories of fairs and other such events in which of sex offenders (broadly defined) are prohibited from working for the rest of their lives.
- Carjacking – Like so many other areas, this is one in which little can be accomplished by additional legislation, but in which legislators feel political pressure to do something. Of the proposals that were floated, the bills that passed create a new felony for possessing a key fob to unlock a car door with the intent to commit a theft or a felony and provisions to assist victims of car theft to pay the resulting red light and speed camera tickets and towing and storage fees.

**Federal incarceration** – [click here to send a message to President Biden](#) urging him avoid reincarcerating the federal prisoners who were allowed to serve their sentences at home due to COVID, by granting them clemency

#### Ending our System of Permanent Punishments

Fully Free Campaign <https://fullyfree.org/> Seeks to End System of 'Permanent Punishments (from laws and restrictions that make it prohibitively difficult for people with criminal records to rebuild their lives after incarceration):

June 27, 2021 report on WTTW television

<https://news.wttw.com/2021/06/27/fully-free-campaign-seeks-end-system-permanent-punishments>

Report from the Heartland Alliance

[https://www.heartlandalliance.org/news\\_clip/fully-free-campaign-seeks-to-end-system-of-permanent-punishments/](https://www.heartlandalliance.org/news_clip/fully-free-campaign-seeks-to-end-system-of-permanent-punishments/)

Conversations with University of Chicago Professor Reuben Jonathan Miller about his new book: *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*

at the Ford School of Public Policy

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school>

and with NPR's Terry Gross:

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross>

The book is available at:

<https://www.semcoop.com/halfway-home-race-punishment-and-afterlife-mass-incarceration>

**Electing Reform-Minded Prosecutors.** The Accountable Justice Action Fund equips local and national groups with the resources, relationships, and strategic insights to help elect prosecutors committed to justice reform. In the past two years it played a significant role in electing 29 new reform-minded DAs – 18 of whom are people of color – who now oversee a combined population of nearly 38 million people.

Contributing – If you are able to make substantial contributions to funding support for the election and reelection of reform-minded prosecutors in key races in 2021 and 2022, when

more than 1,000 DAs will be on the ballot, consider joining the Accountable Justice Action Fund without initial obligation, by simply writing to Chris Maggiano <[chris@cormierco.com](mailto:chris@cormierco.com)>. Monthly Briefings – Joining AJAF will give you access to a wealth of information and to AJAF's monthly briefings on the political landscape for these races at 4:00 central time on the second Tuesday of each month. The next briefing will take place at 4:00 on Tuesday March 9.

#### **Joining the ACLU's Redemption Campaign –**

Sign its petition to the governors asking them to use their executive power to grant clemency to the thousands of people in their states who are unjustifiably imprisoned:

<https://action.aclu.org/petition/tell-governors-embrace-clemency-pathway-redemption>

#### **Joining the Campaign to Free Incarcerated Survivors of Police Torture (CFIST)**

Learn how to help in seeking pardons from Governor Pritzker at <https://www.caarpr.org/cfist>

Join the CFIST list serve by writing to [cfist@caarpr.com](mailto:cfist@caarpr.com)

to participate in the monthly online CFIST meetings at 6:00 the first and third Thursday of each month

to help in drafting the survivor stories for these men. See

[https://www.caarpr.org/survivor\\_stories](https://www.caarpr.org/survivor_stories)

#### **Organizing and Advocacy**

New organizing and advocacy resource from the Community Justice Exchange and the Defender Impact Initiative, issued in April 2020:

[\*A Social Media Toolkit for Organizing and Advocacy to End Mass Criminalization and Incarceration\*](#) –

#### **Advocacy for Defunding Incarceration and Funding Justice in Cook County:**

Write to your Cook County Commissioner now, [by going to this link](#), to thank them for passing the “Justice for Black Lives resolution to reallocate funds from the Cook County Jail and to devote the money to other important needs of people in the county.

#### **Advocacy for Reduction in Fines and Fees and for Restructuring Enforcement Mechanisms to Relieve Burdens on the Most Economically Disadvantaged**

Write to your alderman and to Mayor Lightfoot at <https://webapps1.chicago.gov/eforms/contactUsForm> to thank them for the changes that the City Council has enacted in Chicago's vehicle Vehicle Impoundment Ordinance. See:

<http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/our-blog/support-proposed-changes-chicago-vehicle-impoundment-ordinance/>

#### **Actions to Support Decarceration in the Time of the Corona Virus –**

Writing to Kim Foxx - [sign on here](#) to the letter asking Kim Foxx to exercise her authority to resentence older people who are in the Illinois Department of Corrections, to secure their immediate release. The Illinois Prison Project and Restore Justice have determined that this is the most effective way to get some immediate reduction in the elderly population in Illinois prisons.

Signing the petition to Governor Pritzker .demanding:

[\*No Covid “Death Sentences” in Illinois Prisons.\*](#)

Calling Governor Pritzker (217-782-0244) and Lt. Governor Stratton (217-558-3085) and [your Illinois Representative and Illinois Senator](#) to ask for wide-scale release to reduce the spread of Covid and save lives

Writing to Governor Pritzker – go to:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx>

to write, asking him to:

- Immediately grant all pending commutation petitions that seek release based on substantiated terminal illness. ([authority](#))
- Encourage IDOC to use its discretion to release elderly people with less than 12 months to serve and people serving Class 2-4 felonies who are vulnerable to serious illness or death due to an underlying medical condition. ([authority](#))
- Commute the sentences of anyone over the age of 60 with less than five years remaining to time served. Commute the sentences of all others over 60 to the judicially imposed term *with* the possibility of *expedited* parole in order to make these prisoners eligible for release after an expedited review by the Prisoner Review Board. ([authority](#))
- Encourage IDOC and the Prisoner Review Board to expedite credit restoration, implementation of discretionary release programs, and every other step necessary to bring IDOC's population back to capacity. ([authority](#))
- Immediately release juvenile detainees and expand quarantine friendly services to those remaining in detention, as requested by a large coalition of organizations in this letter: <https://ilyouthprisonscovidresponse.com/our-letter>, which they sent to Governor on Friday March 20.

Writing to the Illinois Department of Corrections – go to [doc.covid@illinois.gov](mailto:doc.covid@illinois.gov) to write, asking them to:

- Immediately release elderly people with less than 12 months to serve and people serving Class 2-4 felonies who are vulnerable to serious illness or death due to an underlying medical condition. ([authority](#))
  - Fast-track all requests for earned time credits made by inmates over the age of 60, all inmates who are due to be released within the next 24 months, and all at higher risk due to underlying medical conditions. ([authority](#))
- Additional Information about decarceration efforts – Here are links to additional information, including full details of the efforts of the Illinois Prison Project and Restore Justice, the Marshall Project's curation of links to information on coronavirus in prisons (updated daily), information and guidance released March 19 by the Vera Institute of Justice, which is working with government and advocacy partners around the country to get people out of jails, prisons, and detention centers whenever possible in response to the COVID 19 crisis, and a March 19 editorial of the Sun-Times calling for mass release of prisoners to deal with the crisis:
- <https://www.illinoisprisonproject.org/coronavirus-response/#recommendations>  
[The Marshall Project's "The Record,"](#)  
[https://mailchi.mp/vera/brooklyn-773710?e=6f6e47c276;](https://mailchi.mp/vera/brooklyn-773710?e=6f6e47c276)  
[Dr. Leah Pope interview to Mother Jones;](#)  
[Emily Bazelon in the New York Times – "Courts and Jails Are Putting Lives at Risk."](#)  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2020/3/19/21186898/cook-county-jail-coronavirus-tom-dart-covid-19-social-distancing>

### **Direct Action, On-Line Public Comment, Community Feedback and Petitions Limiting E-Carceration through Electronic Monitoring**

Sign petition to Demand #NoDigitalPrisons in Illinois, organized by The Center for Media Justice, at: <https://centerformediajustice.org/2018/11/13/demand-nodigitalprisons-in-illinois/>

### **Supporting and Expanding Bond Reform in Cook County and the State of Illinois**

Read the Final Report of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices Concerning Pretrial Reform in the Illinois Criminal justice system, issued in April 2020

<https://courts.illinois.gov/Probation/FinalReport.pdf>

see the Court's press release at: <https://courts.illinois.gov/Media/PressRel/2020/040220.pdf>



Learn About Pretrial Detention in Cook County and the controversy regarding release pending a trial on the merits of individuals accused of unlawful possession of a firearm who have not been accused of a violent crime:

- [WBEZ Primer on Bail and Pretrial Detention](#)
- May 2019 [report](#) of Chief Judge Evans on the impact of policies and action of the Cook County Circuit Court in releasing those accused of a crime in Cook County pending their trial to determine their guilt or innocence
- President Toni Preckwinkle's [letter](#) of July 16 to Mayor Lightfoot challenging claims by Police Chief Johnson that release of individuals who have been accused of unlawful possession of a firearm but who have not been convicted and have not been accused of violent use of a firearm contributes significantly to gun violence in Chicago
- Mayor Lightfoot's response:  
<https://www.chicagoreporter.com/lightfoot-blames-bond-court-reform-for-gun-violence/>
- Amy Campanelli Critique's of the Police Department "Gun Offender Dashboard" identifying and classifying those accused (but not convicted) of gun offenses:
  - <http://twitter.com/tahmanbradley/status/1159215848810262533>
- Police Chief Johnson's Defense of the Dashboard
  - <https://home.chicagopolice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CPDs-Response-to-the-Cook-County-Public-Defenders-Press-Release-Regarding-CPDs-Gun-Offender-Dashboard.pdf>
- Analysis of the Dashboard by Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice:
  - <http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/our-blog/cpds-gun-offender-dashboard-contains-disturbing-inaccuracies-that-are-misleading-the-public-about-the-causes-of-violent-crime/?fbclid=IwAR3pZm58U-heU4CQH08pcvkKqIUKEmmPx9sex58Z7YHKcD6OT2JDsVSHefM>
- Commentary: Data Alone Won't Stop Chicago Gun; Cook County Needs a Public 'Violence Reduction Dashboard', by Paula Wolff in the Chicago Tribune, August 7, 2019
  - <https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-opinion-cpd-gun-offender-dashboard-20190807-oauk7hgvs5ai5ktlhk3qmn45iy-story.html>
- Commentary suggesting that the County's use of "Public Safety Assessment" scores to assess "high risk" of pretrial violence, and to deny pretrial release, overstates the risk:  
<https://theappeal.org/how-a-tool-to-help-judges-may-be-leading-them-astray/>
- "Bail Reform and Bond Funds Do Not Undermine Public Safety", by Curtis Black in The Chicago Reporter, May 8, 2020  
<https://www.chicagoreporter.com/bail-reform-and-bond-funds-do-not-undermine-public-safety/>

### **Task Force To Cut Female Prison Population in by Half in Illinois**

See developments related to this initiative at <https://womensjustice.net/wji-news> and <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-women-prison-population-20180711story.html>

Learn more about the Task Force at: <https://womensjustice.net>

### **Supporting Basic Human Rights of Incarcerated People**

Going to the following link to sign a petition supporting the demands of prisoners participating in last year's prison strike for an end to penal enslavement and other human rights violations in prisons:

[https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/letters/sign-and-send-the-petition-demand-basic-humanrights-for-incarcerated-people?detail=emailactionLL&link\\_id=0&can\\_id=5704777eccbe23910611b0d58fa9f3cd&source=email-its-going-down-largest-prison-strike-in-us-history-continues-sign-and-send-the-petition&email\\_referrer=email\\_413003\\_subject\\_520398&email\\_subject=usa-the-country-thatincarcerates-25-of-the-worlds-population-sign-and-send-the-petition](https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/letters/sign-and-send-the-petition-demand-basic-humanrights-for-incarcerated-people?detail=emailactionLL&link_id=0&can_id=5704777eccbe23910611b0d58fa9f3cd&source=email-its-going-down-largest-prison-strike-in-us-history-continues-sign-and-send-the-petition&email_referrer=email_413003_subject_520398&email_subject=usa-the-country-thatincarcerates-25-of-the-worlds-population-sign-and-send-the-petition)

See also:

<https://therealnews.com/stories/prisoners-strike-across-america-canada-to-end-penal-enslavement>

## **Archive – Justice Reform Bills Considered Other Recent Sessions of the Illinois General Assembly**

- Bills proposing reforms that the Illinois General Assembly considered in its 2021 spring session

Earned Discretionary Reentry – House Bill 2399, Senate Bill 2333, discussed at:

<https://paroleillinois.org/2021/03/02/senate-bill-2333-earned-discretionary-reentry/>

The Judicial Quality Act - Senate Bill 0563, discussed at:

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/support-for-sb-0563-judicial-quality-act/>

Reducing Barriers to Recovery - House Bill 3447, discussed at:

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/support-for-hb-3447-reducing-barriers-to-recovery/>

Limiting Negotiations by Police Unions to Wages Only - House Bill 3891 and Senate Bill 2447,

to repeal current provisions allowing police union contracts to overpower Illinois Law, discussed at:

<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/illinois-law-lets-police-union-contracts-overpower-state-law/>

Restoring eligibility of former felons for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - House Bill 0088

Bad Apples in Law Enforcement Accountability Act – House Bill 1727

Abolishing Juvenile Life w/o Parole Sentences – House Bill 1821

Confidentiality of Restorative Justice Proceedings – House Bill 3248, Senate Bill 0064

Raising the Lower Age for Pretrial Detention – Senate Bill 0065

Criminal ID-Expungement Fee Reform – House Bill 2367

Theft and Retail Theft Sentencing Reform – House Bill 2402

Eliminating Felony Conviction as a Bar to Name Change – House Bill 2542

Torture Inquiry/Relief Commission - House Bill 2613

Torture Commission Restrictions – Senate Bill 2119

Criminal ID-Expungement Reform – House Bill 2743

Penalty Reduction – House Bill 34443

Restorative Sentencing Act – House Bill 3594, Senate Bill 2123

State Resentencing Motion – Senate Bill 2129

Criminal Penalties – Senate Bill 2186

Accountability – Senate Bill 2276

Jury Duty, Prior Convictions – Senate Bill 2437

Felony Murder Reform – Senate Bill 2113

Sentence Credit – Senate Bill 2115

Community Emergency Services and Supports Act – House Bill 2784, Senate Bill 2117

Elder Parole Bill – House Bill 2399, Senate Bill 2120

Requiring Employment Background Checks To Be Conducted by the State Police –SB ?

Minimum Wage for Prisoners – Senate Bill 0649

Inmates Right to Seek Post Conviction Hearing – House Bill 2745

The Mind Strong Act (mandating education about adult mobile crisis response services) -

House Bill 2944, Senate Bill 347

Making firearms sentencing enhancements discretionary – House Bill 2989

Making public grand jury proceedings regarding excessive use of force by a peace officer or

discharge of a firearm by a peace officer resulting in death or bodily harm – House Bill 3230

Use of Force Reporting – House Bill 3239

Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records – House Bill 3239

Prohibiting No-Knock Warrants – House Bill 3261

Crime Victims Compensation – House Bill 3295, Senate Bill 0627

Officer-Worn Body Camera – House Bill 3347

Re Bail-Rehearing Denial – House Bill 3361

Re Failure to Appear – House Bill 3362

Re Recognizance – House Bill 3363

Reporting Prisoner Deaths – Senate Bill 0624

Communication Rights for Those in Custody – Senate Bill 0625

Decriminalizing Transmission of HIV– Senate Bill 0655

Ex-Offender Preference – Senate Bill 1945

Statewide point of contact for families with IDOC – Senate Bill 1976



Assault Weapons Ban – Senate Bill 2510

- Other bills that were scheduled for consideration at the 2020 fall veto session, which was cancelled:

HB1115 to Limit Electronic Monitoring for People on Mandatory Supervised Release,

Learn more about it in Shriver Center’s discussion of its the 2020 Veto Session at:

<https://www.povertylaw.org/article/veto2020/>

HB4613, HB4608 and HB4295, to limit the detention of juveniles in Illinois,

as discussed and supported in this letter to legislators the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus re Juvenile Justice Priorities for the November Veto Session :

[https://jjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/JJI-Reforms-Letter-9\\_15.pdf](https://jjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/JJI-Reforms-Letter-9_15.pdf)

from a coalition of Illinois organizations including the Juvenile Justice Initiative, the ACLU, the John Howard Association, The Chicago Urban League, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, the Cook County Public Defender and 20 other organizations – it addressee: pretrial detention, availability of counsel, legal privilege for communications in restorative justice proceedings, and beginning juvenile proceedings in juvenile court

- Partial List of other Illinois Bills to Support if and when they are considered

The Violent Offender Registry Reform Bill (to reduce the time a person is on a public registry, to de-felonize all penalties, and to remove automatic 10 year penalty extension) and

The Restorative Sentencing Bill (to grant program sentencing credit eligibility for people sentenced under Truth in Sentencing)

The Employee Background Fairness Bill (to create reasonable standards in the hiring process for people with records) and

The Public Housing Access Bill (to minimize local housing authority restrictions/bans for people with records).

Contact Betsy Clarke or Luis Klein of the Juvenile Justice Initiative at

[bcjuv@aol.com](mailto:bcjuv@aol.com) or [lkjjustice@gmail.com](mailto:lkjjustice@gmail.com)

to learn more about the following Bills and how you can support them:

Illinois House Bill 4613, to reform juvenile detention law to change the standard for detention to ensure it is last resort, and require the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission to include recommendations regarding the availability of youth services to address the use of detention in its annual report

Illinois House Bill 4610, to raise the minimum age for incarcerating children in juvenile detention from 13 to 14

Illinois Senate Bill 239, to expand the initial jurisdiction of Juvenile Court to include all young adults charged with misdemeanors (first defined as those 18 or younger and moving over time to those 20 and younger

Illinois House Bill 4295, to establish a privilege for communications made during restorative justice proceedings

Illinois House Bill 4609, to expand the category of youth who must be accompanied by lawyers in any interrogation, up from 15 at present

Transfer Reform, to require a hearing in juvenile court to decide whether to prosecute a child under age 18 in adult criminal court.

ACLU’s 2019 Illinois Legislative Wrap Up, with suggested Action Items for supporting enactment of the proposed License to Work Act, legislation to Ban the Box in Higher Education, and legislation for Defelonization of Drug Possession and for Increasing the Felony Thresholds for Property Crimes:

<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/news/2019-aclu-illinois-legislative-wrap>

ACLU October 29, 2019 Report on the passage of the Illinois License to Work Act (SB 1786)

<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/sb-1786-license-work-act>

- Legislative Action Illinois in the Spring of 2019 –

Before adjourning on May 31, in response to the hard work of many advocates, the Illinois General Assembly passed and sent to Governor Pritzker the following legislation making several important improvements our criminal justice system:

(thanks to Evan Freund of the Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force for compiling the results of the legislative session):

Resources for Impacted Communities

HB 1438 legalizing the personal use and sale of Marijuana – will devote 25% of the revenue raised by the cannabis tax to communities defined by high levels of violence, of people returning from prison or jail and of childhood poverty

(Thanks to everyone who contacted their representative after the Senate added this provision to the House bill!)

(See a conversation about that important initiative between Sharone Mitchell of the Illinois Justice Project and Anna Lee of the Chicago Community Trust at:

<https://www.cct.org/2019/07/how-illinois-cannabis-laws-aim-to-reduce-violence-and-restore-communities/?fbclid=IwAR2sD1OIM5NHYUIXz0W0VgNLDu-vJGT1qbT3g-GwndZMg3u2k3Avt5pZIEU>)

HB1587 – provides harm reduction services to addicts

Driver's License Revocation

HB 3005/SB 1786 – License to Work Act – will limit driver license suspensions for nonpayment of fees, civil penalties or taxes - For discussion of the bill, see: <https://www.license2work.org/>

Policing

HB 0051 – Requires notice on default of fine 30 days prior to issuance of a warrant

HB 1613 – Combats racial profiling by maintaining data collection re traffic and

pedestrian stops– see: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/publications/racism-rear-view-mirror>

and: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/hb-1613-continue-traffic-and-pedestrian-data-collection-law-enforcement>

Definition of Offenses and Sentencing

HB 0094 – Grants sentencing credits for those convicted of offenses prior to 1998

HB 1587 – To reduce sentences for non-violent felonies -with probation, supervisory release

Pretrial Considerations

SB1609 – Increases “bail credit” compensation (deducted from fines) for pretrial incarceration to \$30 per day

Incarceration

HB2040 – Prohibits for-profit correctional institutions in Illinois

HB 2045/HB 2288 – Eliminates inmate co-payments for medical care

Post Release

HB 3061 – Enables initiation of background check prior to offer of employment in health care jobs

HB 3227/SB 1780 – prohibits landlords from using arrest records and records ordered expunged and sealed in rental decisions

HB 1438 legalizing the personal use and sale of Marijuana – will result in expungement of the individual's records for some minor drug offenses, after review by prosecutors

- Other Criminal justice reform bills considered in the 2019 session of the General Assembly:

Violence Prevention

HB 0327 – to provide Chicago Violence prevention targeted grants

### Policing

HB 2519 – to repeal gang data base

(Passed the House, re-referred to the Senate Assignment Committee)

HB 0021 – to end practice of requiring sworn affidavit as basis for a policing complaint

HB 1616 – to require that police grant anyone taken into custody the right to three completed phone calls within one hour after arrival at the station

(2<sup>nd</sup> reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)

HB 0056 – to regulate police officer accountability

### Restorative Justice

HB 1458 – to create a new “privilege” to prevent statement made in restorative justice proceedings from being used in court proceedings

- (2<sup>nd</sup> reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee, held on calendar)

### Definition of Offenses and Sentencing

SB 1610 – Guilty plea – Alien admonition

SB 1968 – Modifications for Class 3 and 4 Non-Violent Crimes < 4 months electronic Monitoring/Adult Transition Center

HB 1614 – to increase the felony dollar threshold for retail theft

(2<sup>nd</sup> reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)

HB 1615 – to modify the level of responsibility required for conviction of felony murder

See: “5 Teens Charged Under a Rule That Must Change” by Dahleen Glanton in the Chicago Tribune, Aug 15, 2019

[http://digealedition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d](http://digealedition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d)

HB 2039 – to allow those serving time for a crime for which the penalties have been subsequently reduced to petition the trial court for an equivalent reduction

(2<sup>nd</sup> reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)

HB2620 (see HB0094 above)– to provide sentencing credit for truth in sentencing offences

(Amendment re-referred to Rules Committee)

HB 0055 – to limit imposition of sentence higher than documented pretrial offer

HB 1587 – to reduce sentences/probation/supervision for non-violent felonies

### Pretrial Considerations

SB 1188 – to provide for diversion of mentally ill from the justice system pretrial

(Passed the Senate, sent to the House Judiciary/Criminal Law Committee)

HB 2046 (see SB1609 above) – to provide for incarceration credit compensation (deducted from fines) to \$30 per day for unbailed incarceration

(2<sup>nd</sup> reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)

HB 2689 – Pretrial Data Act – to require monthly reporting by counties of Pretrial Orders, Pretrial Bail Proceeds, and Pretrial Custody and Release

HB 3347 – Equal Justice for All Act – to abolish money bail and govern pretrial proceedings

### Juvenile Justice

HB1478 – to raise the minimum age that one can be held in juvenile detention from 10 to 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

- HB 2305 – to raise the minimum age to 14 for a youth to be incarcerated in Illinois

HB 1465 – to expand the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for young adults charged charged with misdemeanors

HB 1615 – to limit agency responsibility for murder for juveniles

See: “5 Teens Charged Under a Rule That Must Change” by Dahleen Glanton in the Chicago Tribune, Aug 15, 2019

[http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d](http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d)

HB 2644 – Best Interest of the Child Act

HB 2922 – to require a lawyer for children in interrogation in any case that could be transferred to adult court

#### Incarceration

SB 1158 – to repeal indemnification by prisoners for prison costs  
(2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the Senate, re-referred to Judiciary/Criminal Committee)

HB 0182 – to limit the use of solitary confinement

HB 2620/SB 2054 – Restorative Sentencing Act – to enact a program of sentence credit for prisoners who participate in programs contributing to their rehabilitation to reduce time service to below the 85% or 100% of the prescribed sentence as otherwise required by law

HB 2649 – Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents

HB 2925 – to establish a separate Ombudsman Bureau within the Department of Corrections

HB 3090 – to require prompt investigation and reporting of all deaths of people while in custody – For discussion of this bill, see:

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/new-bill-would-force-transparency-on-how-people-die-in-prison/58b387b8-667c-4295-a76d-90337a3e9f2f>

HB 1617 – to regulate use of vending machines in prison facilities

HB 3060 – to provide sentencing credit for home detention and to include electronic home monitoring in the definition of “custody”

HB 0179 – to address claims for wrongful incarceration of innocent individuals

#### Children and Family Considerations

HB 2444 – Best Interest of the Child Act – to require a Family Impact Statement and consideration of alternatives to incarceration in sentencing a parent or guardian

HB 2649 – to require recognition of the rights of children to maintaining their relationship with parents who are incarcerated

#### Parole

HB 3214 – to implement parole in Illinois for all prisoners other than sex offenders and those who have committed two or more murders

#### Post Release

HB2474 – to limit reasons for denials of professional licensing to those convicted of crimes  
(deadline extended – hold for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

HB0097 – to expand expungement of criminal records  
(to be reintroduced)

HB 01115 – Limiting electronic monitoring with Mandatory Supervised Release or Parole  
(Passed House, re-referred to Senate Assignment Committee)

HB 3056 – Employee Background Fairness Act – to regulate how employers take into account prior criminal records of job applicants

HB 0044 – to regulate publication of Criminal records – innocent, sealed or expunged

HB 0932 – to provide for non-violent probationer to attend job training and pre-employment session

HB 3332 – to provide a tax credit for landlords who rent to people with a conviction record

#### - Bills opposed by criminal justice reform advocates as steps backwards:

- HB0221 – to allow counties to opt out of bail reform
- HB0244 – to impose life imprisonment for all First Degree murders
- HB0287 – to deny Internet use to paroled sex offenders
- HB2244 – to place additional conditions on parole, to limit associations

#### - Other bills on which the Legislature did not complete action in 2018:

SAFE ACT (2017 Illinois House Bill 5308), which passed the Senate but not the House in 2017 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 introduced in 2017, including a fact sheet and a supporters list, please visit [www.iljp.org/thesafeact/](http://www.iljp.org/thesafeact/).

#### Sentencing Reform:

2017 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:

2017 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)

2017 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:

2017 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

2017 Illinois House Bill 4741 - to safeguard prison visiting rights

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

2017 Illinois 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: 2017

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/>

2017 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)

#### Records of Eviction Proceedings

2017 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

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-tofund-up/>

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

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