Books

Shaping Hope: Higher Education in Prison by Mary Vandergoot, published July 2026

Learn more about the book and purchase a copy at:

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/shaping-hope-higher-education-in-prison_mary-vandergoot/59797138/?resultid=61e20f36-2c26-4e08-ba23-e1d732fbd6b3#edition=76247334&idiq=90097984

Restorative Justice and Lived Religion by Jason Springs, published in September 2024 by NYU Press

https://nyupress.org/9781479823789/restorative-justice-and-lived-religion/

(see link in articles section below for a review of the book in the Christian Century)*:*

Unforgiving Places: The Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence by Jens Ludwig (Faculty Director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, published by the University of Chicago Press

*https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/U/bo244203115.html*Correction: Parole, Prison and the Possibility of Change by Ben Austin, published in November 2023 by Flatiron Books, an imprint of MacMillan Books

https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250758811/correction

Excessive Punishment: How the Justice System Creates Mass Incarceration. edited by Laure-Brook Eisen, published in April 2024 by the Columbia University Press

https://cup.columbia.edu/book/excessive-punishment/9780231559249

Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change, by Ben Austin, published by Flatiron Books

https://www.chicagomag.com/chicago-magazine/december-2023/the-indeterminate-sentence-of-johnnie-veal/

MASS Supervision – Probation, Parole and the Illusion of Safety and Freedom, by Vincent Schiraldi, published by The New Press

https://thenewpress.com/books/mass-supervision

Beyond Bars: a Path Forward After 50 Years of Incarceration in the United States, from The Sentencing Project and The Society for the Study of Social Problems, published by Policy Press of Bristol University

FREE ELECTRONIC DOWNLOAD at

https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/beyond-bars?emci=b88773ed-7730-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&emdi=38c3d0dd-7d30-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&ceid=10194244

Parsimony and Other Radical Ideas About Justice, edited by Bruce Western and Jeremy Travis and featuring essays from more than twenty authors who've participated in the Square One Project, published by The New Press

https://thenewpress.com/books/parsimony-other-radical-ideas-about-justice#:~:text=%E2%80%9C%20Parsimony%20and%20Other%20Radical%20Ideas%20About%20Justice,racialized%20capitalism%20to%20expand%20how%20we%20understand%20justice.

Understanding E-Carceration: Electronic Monitoring, the Surveillance State, and the Future of Mass Incarceration, by James Kilgore, available at:

https://bookshop.org/books/understanding-e-carceration-electronic-monitoring-the-surveillance-state-and-the-future-of-mass-incarceration/9781620976142?bblinkid=257748996&bbemailid=37809108&bbejrid=-2049724454

The Sentences that Create Us – Crafting a Writer's Life in Prison, by PEN America, edited by Caits Meissner, available at:

https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1766-sentences-that-create-us?bblinkid=257755043&bbemailid=37809108&bbejrid=-2049724454#:~:text=The%20Sentences%20That%20Create%20Us%20provides%20a%20road%20map%20for,offer%20advice%2C%20inspiration%20and%20resources . -

My Time Will Come – a Memoir of Crime, Punishment Hope and Redemption, by Ian Manuel

https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/610493/my-time-will-come-by-ian-manuel/

Necropolitics – The Religious Crisis of Mass Incarceration in America, by Professor Christopher Ringer of the Chicago Theological Seminary, published November 17, 2020 – available at:

https://www.booktopia.com.au/necropolitics-christophe-d-ringer/ebook/9781793626806.html

"Prisons Make Us Safer": and 20 Other Myths about Mass Incarceration, by Victoria Law, (Beacon Press 2021) -
https://bookshop.org/books/prisons-make-us-safer-and-20-other-myths-about-mass-incarceration/9780807029527
Find excerpts from the book at Literary Hub Daily of April 8, 2021:
https://lithub.com/lit-hub-daily-april-8-2021/

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

- Conversations with Professor Miller about his book:
  - --at the Ford School of Public Policy
    https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school
    and with NBR's Terry Gross
    https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross

" *Life Imprisonment, a Global Human Rights Analysis,* by Dirk van Zyl Smit and Catherine Appleton (Harvard International Press 2019)
https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674980662|

Women Leaving Prison: Justice-Seeking Spiritual Support for Female Returning Citizens (Emerging Perspectives in Pastoral Theology and Care) by Jill Snodgrass
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41545555-women-leaving-prison

Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration –by Emily Bazelon, published by Random House
Reviewed in the New York Times Book Review on April 8, 2019:
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/books/review/emily-bazelon-charged.html

Prisoners of Politics: Breaking the Cycle of Mass Incarceration by Rachel Barkow, published by Harvard University Press
http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674919235

Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System (and study guide) by Laura Magnani and Harmon Wray of the American Friends Service Committee
For more information see:
https://www.afsc.org/document/beyond-prisons-study-guide

Community Health Equity: A Chicago Reader, edited by Fernando De Maio, Raj Shah, John Mazzeo, and David Ansell

Beyond These Walls: Rethinking Crime and Punishment in the United States, by Tony Platt

American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey Into the Business of Punishment, by Shane Bauer

Locking Up Our Own, by James Forman Jr. (winner of the Pulitzer Prize)

Race to Incarcerate, by Sabrina Jones and Marc Mauer

The Real Cost of Prisons Comix, by Lois Ahrens

The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander

Locked In, by John Pfaff

The Collapse of American Criminal Justice, by William Stuntz

The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Punishment, by T. Richard Snyder

Not a Crime To Be Poor, by Peter Edelman

Men on the Inside, by Tyrone Muhammed - available for purchase at:
http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/tyrone-f-muhammad/men-on-the-inside/paperback/product-23336713.html

Policing the Black Man, edited by Angela Davis

Inside Private Prisons, by Lauren-Brooke Eisen

Reports

Comprehensive Master Plan for Illinois Prisons - 2026 Summary by the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council of the May 2023 Facility Master Plan Final Report presented by CGL Companies to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to help IDOC meet its facility-related goals

https://spac.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/spac/documents/reports/2025-2029/spac_cgl_summary.pdf

Health, Housing, and Household Circumstances Among Women on Parole, an August 2026 report from the Council on Criminal Justice

https://councilоncj.org/health-housing-and-household-circumstances-among-women-on-parole/?utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=9592c51acb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_10_10_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-9592c51acb-174976893

How we built a database of Illinois jail records — and how you can use it to do your own digging, a September 2026 report of the Illinois Answers Project on their study of events over the years in Illinois Jails

https://illinoisanswers.org/2026/09/15/search-illinois-jail-records-free/

Fighting for Safer and Healthier Communities, a comprehensive September 2026 Newsletter from the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, including detailed discussion of:

- Provisions of the Illinois Pretrial Justice Act
- The Exploitation Playbook of the opponents of the Act
- Distorting the Facts in attacks on the judges by Aldermen, State officials, the Cook County State's Attorney and Chicago Mayoral candidates,
- Exploitation of Survivors, and
- Data vs. Anecdotes

https://mailchi.mp/fef3ddd3ae7c/happenings-in-pretrial-justice-sept-newsletter-4092611?e=26813fbadd

Changing Landscapes – Community Court-Watchers' Observations of the Second Year of Pretrial Fairness Implementation, 2026 report of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, including:

- Recommendations to the Cook County State's Attorney
- Recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County
- Recommendation for the Illinois General Assembly

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500 Days Forward . . Ten Years Back: an Evaluation of Eileen O'Neill Burke's First 500 Days As Cook County State's Attorney, a May 2026 report issued by Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

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The Pretrial Fairness Act Explained, a July 2026 report of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, presenting an historical account of pretrial reform and a rigorous explanation of Illinois' prior and current systems of pretrial detention.

https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2026/07/24/pretrial-fairness-act-explained/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_4_9_2025_16_43_COPY_01)&mc_cid=90ec8fbe0b&mc_eid=9b71449375

Why Did an Illinois Prison Fail to Stop 70 Fires? - Three key takeaways from our investigation of the epidemic of fires at the Joliet Treatment Center, an August 2026 report from The Marshall Project

https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/08/11/illinois-joliet-deadly-prison-fires-findings

The Wrong Side of Justice, regarding corruption, misconduct and conflicts of interest in the Illinois Special Prosecutions Unit, an August 2026 report of Injustice Watch

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https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/News/1702/Equal-Justice-Under-Law-The-Implementation-of-a-Statewide-Public-Defenders-Office/news-detail/

April 2026 Presentation by the Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland to the Juvenile Justice Initiative and 2024-2025 Performance Impact Report of the Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland

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Following the Money of Mass Incarceration 2026, a February 2026 report from The Prison Policy Initiative
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Coming Home? Assessing the Housing Needs of People Nearing Release from Illinois Prisons, a December 2025 study conducted by the Loyola Center for Criminal Justice, reporting on a recent large-scale survey of people about to be released from Illinois prisons
https://loyolaccj.org/blog/coming-home-assessing-the-housing-needs-of-people-nearing-release-from-illinois-prisons
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What Is the Status of Higher Education Access at Illinois Prisons?, a September 30, 2025 commentary by Rebecca Ginsberg, Director of the Education Justice Project of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign on the September 1, 2025 Higher Education Report of the Illinois Department of Corrections

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https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=lJld5iM_WkKFXaMaotlqKsLdw7-iPIRClZaObCjfknhUMklERVhPUzgyM1NMNDRXMzIzSTVXOThTSC4u&route=shorturl
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"Illinois Keeping the Spotlight on uplifting the wrongfully Convicted", Chicago SunTimes editorial, December 3, 2022
https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/12/3/23488021/illinois-wrongful-convictions-exoneration-chicago-beyond-life-after-justice-editorial
and reader response: "Ending Wrongful Convictions Will Take More Than Piecemeal Reform"
https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/12/10/23496636/wrongful-convictions-justice-reform-gun-safety-highland-park-cubs-brittney-griner-sunday-letters/
"Cook County Juvenile Jail Using 'Semantics' To Hide Many Hours Youths Are Isolated: Report," an August 23, 2023 article by Jonah Newman and Carlos Ballesteros of Injustice Watch, containing the text of the May 2022 report of the "blue ribbon" committee convened by Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans, which called on the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Facility to be shut down
https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/juvenile-justice/2022/juvenile-detention-center-room-confinement-report/?utm_source=Injustice+Watch+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=ae94e47ae3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_04_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1a5f79d769-ae94e47ae3-229852929&mc_cid=ae94e47ae3&mc_eid=5e6443529 2
"*Federal monitor finds Illinois prisons fail to provide adequate health care to inmates"* an August 11, 2022 article in Corrections 1
https://www.corrections1.com/correctional-healthcare/articles/federal-monitor-finds-illinois-prisons-fail-to-provide-adequate-health-care-to-inmates-KEpXU8m7187KnzdU/
"The Rise and Fall of Prison Education," a February 16, 2022 article by Cassie M. Chew in The Crime Report
https://thecrimereport.org/2022/02/16/the-rise-and-fall-of-prison-education/
"There's No Second Amendment on the South Side of Chicago", by Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell, Jr. in The Nation of November 12, 2021
https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/gun-control-supreme-court/

"Illinois women's prison offers a new chance at a degree," a January 3, 2022 article by Candice Norwood in The 19th Newsletter

read it at *https://19thnews.org/2022/01/illinois-womens-prison-degree/*

"Black Sexual Violence Survivors Are Telling Their Stories Only to Be Punished," a January 8, 2022 article by Victoria Law in Truthout, available *at this link*

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2021/safe-t-act-changes/

"Illinois Man Who Spent 22 Years in Solitary Confinement Seeks Reforms," a January 4, 2022 articleby Sierra Henry in the Bloomington Pantagraph

here is a *Link to the article*

"Illinois criminal justice reformers won a historic legislative victory in 2021. But the law they passed isn't a done deal", a November 3, 2021 article from Injustice Watch

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2021/safe-t-act-changes/

"Health care in Illinois prisons is deficient: Report", a October 21, 2021 article on the latest report of an independent monitor, from Injustice Watch

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/prisons-and-jails/2021/health-care-illinois-prisons-monitor-report/ "D

Don't Blame Bail Reform for Violent Crime", a June 2021 Creators Syndicate column by Steve Chapman

https://www.creators.com/read/steve-chapman/07/21/dont-blame-bail-reform-for-violent-crime

"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/

COVID-19 Sweeps Through Cook County Jail (now exceeding 800 cases), by Daniel Tucker of WBEZ, May 5, 2020

https://www.wbez.org/stories/covid-19-sweeps-through-cook-county-jail/d8ed7a11-802c-43aa-b55f-151ddb721985

"In Rural Areas a 'Quiet Jail-Building Boom' Is Taking Place," by James Kilgore in *Truthout,* February 1, 2020

https://truthout.org/articles/in-rural-areas-a-quiet-jail-building-boom-is-taking-place/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=ae0a9753-9e19-4f61-8606-2fa84a78fab6

"Cash Bail Was Never About Safety" by Melissa Grant in *The New Republic,* January 10, 2020

https://newrepublic.com/article/156155/cash-bail-neversafety?bblinkid=200935833&bbemailid=18937478&bbejrid=1351137705 "Tech CEO: "When a Company Doesn't Hire Ex-Offenders, It Misses Out on 3 Big Benefits", from *Barron's*, December 6, 2019.

Text available from *johnmclees@outlook.com* or *jgintzler@hotmail.com*

"*Awakening to a Mass-Supervision Crisis* (problems with community supervision release) from *The Atlantic,* December 26, 2019

"Can We Build Better Women's Prison", by Keri Blakinger, in the Washington Post Magazine, October 29, 2019

https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2019/10/28/prisons-jails-are-designed-men-can-we-build-better-womens-prison/?arc404=true&utm_campaign=January%2011%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=November

"Arrests for Low-Level Crimes Are Plummeting, and the Experts Are Flummoxed", in the Wall Street Journal, October 6, 2019

https://www.wsj.com/articles/arrests-for-low-level-crimes-are-plummeting-and-the-experts-are-flummoxed-11570354201?mod=mhp&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=33f7a2e2-0c85-425d-a97d-2793ad1405f8

"New York's Jail-Reform Architect Looks to Norway for Ideas" by Ben Chapman, in the Wall Street Journal, October 16, 2019

https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-citys-jail-reform-architect-looks-to-norway-for-ideas-11571263205

"Could Norway's Mental Health Focus Reduce Incarceration in Michigan?" by Karen Bouffard, in the Detroit News, October 10, 2018

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/special-reports/2019/10/10/norway-prison-model-fixing-mental-illness-problems-michigan-prisons/1504226001/

"Four Ways America Gets It Wrong in Prosecuting Alleged Teen Offenders", by Betsy Clarke in the Chicago SunTimes, August 26, 2019

https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/26/20833794/juvenile-justice-initiative-reform-felony-murder-review-sun-times-elizabeth-clarke

"Releasing Elderly Prison Inmates Could Save Illinois a Fortune — Without Endangering Public" by Jennifer Soble and Bill Ryan in the Chicago SunTimes, Aug 12, 2019

https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/12/20802680/illinois-department-of-corrections-prison-elderly-inmates-jennifer-soble-bill-ryan

"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

"If Prisons Don't Work, What Will?" in the New York Times, April 5, 2019

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/05/opinion/mass-incarceration-sentencing-reform.html

"Solitary Confinement Should be Eliminated Everywhere" by Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart in the Washington Post, reprinted in the Chicago Tribune of April 8, 2019

http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=847e5070-9e4c-482c-9261-34340816f199

"Washington Watch: Expanding Pell to Prisoners Looks Promising", Community College Daily, February 8, 2018

http://www.ccdaily.com/2019/02/expanding-pell-prisoners-looks-promising/

"Activism, Apps Bond in War on Cash Bail", Chicago Tribune

http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=33e07c42-02ed-427f-9344-e390d55775a2

"At the Hands of Police" by Cook County Public Defender Amy Campanelli in The Progressive'

https://progressive.org/dispatches/at-the-hands-of-police-campanelli-190214/

"State Agrees to Sweeping Health Care Reforms, Oversight at All Prisons" – from the Chicago Tribune, January 4, 2019

https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-illinois-prison-health-lawsuit20190103-story.html

"Illinois Corrections Officers Contend Rules Not Binding on Their Conduct" (in arguments before the Illinois Supreme Court – from Injustice Watch, January 25, 2019 (the article contains a link to a recording of the arguments)

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2019/illinois-corrections-officials-contendrules-not-binding-on-their-conduct/?utm_source=Injustice+Watch+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=cfb498fc2d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_24_10_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1a5f79d 769-cfb498fc2d-229852929

"Can Pritzker, Foxx Deliver on Criminal Justice Reforms?" – from The Chicago Reporter, January 17, 2019

https://www.chicagoreporter.com/can-pritzker-foxx-deliver-on-criminal-justicereforms/?utm_source=TCRNewsletter&utm_medium=Email_011819&utm_campaign=cjreform

"Preckwinkle's Criminal Justice Plan Includes Ending Gang Database" – from WBEZ on January 14,

2019

https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/preckwinkles-criminal-justice-plan-includesending-gang-database/bf737539-d477-4d67-84a3-d07d2bc55e73?utm_source=email&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Web-Share

"At Kalven's Invisible Institute, An Unfolding Effort to Tell a City's Story" in the Chicago Maroon of November 27, 2018

https://www.chicagomaroon.com/article/2018/11/27/kalven-invisible-institute-unfoldingeffort-tell-c/

"The Newest Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander, on the dangers posed by the growing wave of digital prisons in the United States.

published as *an op-ed in The New York Times* of November 8, 2018, also accessible at https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/08/opinion/sunday/criminal-justice-reforms-racetechnology.html

ACLU blog: Prisoners Are Getting Paid $1.45 a Day to Fight the California Wildfires

https://www.aclu.org/blog/prisoners-rights/prisoners-are-getting-paid-145-day-fightcalifornia-wildfires

ACLU blog: How Georgia's Probation System Squeezes the Poor and Feeds Mass Incarceration

https://www.aclu.org/blog/criminal-law-reform/how-georgias-probation-system-squeezespoor-and-feeds-mass-incarceration

Complexity and Criminal Justice - Article by Nathan Robinson in *Current Affairs Magazine* issue of April 24, 2018:

https://www.currentaffairs.org/2018/04/complexity-and-criminal-justice

Why Illinois Needs to Restore Parole for Juvenile Lifers

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-parole-juvenile-lifersprison-illinois-children-criminals-0222-story.html

Monitoring Cook County's Central Bond Court: A Community Court Watching Initiative, issued February 27, 2018 by the Coalition to End Money Bond, see *the press release* issued by the Coalition for more details

Theater:

Pipeline by Dominque Morisseau –premiered in February 2019 at Victory Gardens Theater at 2433 North Lincoln Avenue in Chicago

Explores parenthood, the state of our public schools and school to prison pipeline

Lettie, by Boo Killebrew – premiered last season, in the spring of 2018, at Victory Gardens Theatre

Portrays the struggles of a woman who has been released from prison

Inspired by the experience of women at Grace House of St.Leonard's Ministries in Chicago

Film, TV and VIdeo:

"Firsthand – Life After Prison" – 2023 WTTW documentary series/

https://video.wttw.com/video/firsthand-life-after-prison-trailer-33aofv

https://chicagodefender.com/firsthand-life-after-prison-launches-monday-february-13-2023/

"Bail Reform" - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver for HBO, September 2022

Bail Reform

13th" (Netflix documentary on criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom) – more information at: *https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741*

No More Shackles"- short film produced by the Chicago Community Bond Fund and Media Justice on the experience of extended incarceration under electronic monitoring

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4QXmRIS_OI

College Behind Bars – A 4-part series from PBS that explores the transformative power of higher education programs for inmates

https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/resources/college-behind-bars/

Girls on the Wall, an EMMY WINNING production of Story Catchers Theatre

https://www.amazon.com/Girls-Wall-Heather-Ross/dp/B00GWPCVP4

Short video about the collaborative program between Calvin College in Grand Rapids Michigan and the Michigan prison system that allows incarcerated people there to participate in a fully accredited college degree program.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neBbpwdgTJE

Reclaiming the Crown – The Footwork King's Battle with Money Bail" – Prepared and released by the Chicago Community Bond Fund in January 2019

"American Jail," CNN Films Production premiered Sunday July 1, 2018 on CNN and CNNgo - see: *https://www.cnn.com/shows/american-jail-film*

Milwaukee 53206 – about those affected by mass incarceration in America's most incarcerated ZIP code –

https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/resources/milwaukee-53206/

This is Crazy: Criminalizing Mental Illness -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fhg4M0GGTJI

Ninth annual *(In)Justice for All Film Festival*, October 2024 – dozens of films at locations throughout the Chicago area –

information will be available later in 2024 at
http://www.injusticeforallff.com/

Reentry Services, Information and Support for Returning Citizens

Inside Out Network - Interactive Networking Resource Connecting Returning Citizens with Services Of All Kinds – *https://insideoutnetwork.net/welcome*

Illinois Reentry Guide of the Education Justice Project:

Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry, 2022

download a free copy here or purchase a hard copy here

New Illinois Reentry Website of the Education Justice Project, with a searchable database of reentry resources, links to videos and reentry stories and of course, downloadable pdfs of EJP's reentry guides in English and Spanish:

reentryillinois.net

U.S. Department of Justice online resources regarding Prisoners and Prisoner Re-Entry

https://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/progmenu_reentry.html

National Reentry Resource Center - *https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc*

Redeploy Illinois – *https://www.redeployillinois.org/*

Adult Redeploy Illinois - *http://www.icjia.state.il.us/redeploy/*

Prison and Neighborhood Art Project Resources page - *http://p-nap.org/resources.html*

Defy Ventures – *https://www.defyventures.org/*

Got Jobs America - *www.gotjobsamerica.com*

Resume Templates:

https://www.resumetemplates.com/
https://www.resumetemplates.com/resume-examples/

GRO Community – *https://grocommunity.org/services/justice-involved*
Website for people returning home from prison, at https://reentryillinois.net/#/?step=1, created by *Education Justice Project* and *Chi Hack Night*,

New Texting Resource to facilitate communication between returning citizens and service providers

more information about the pilot program available at https://www.tiltas.co/;

see also the discussion at:

http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20180524/ISSUE01/180529974/chicago-startup-tiltasconnects-ex-offenders-to-nonprofit-services

2nd Opportunity, LLC, 847-257-2713, Website www.2ndopp.com
Learn more from Augie Bhilarducci at augie@2ndopp.com

Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice website at
https://www.ilarj.org/
Join the Alliance (as an individual or an organization) at *https://www.ilarj.org/*

Alumni Association – *http://thealumniassociation.org/*
Learn more from Ray Robinson at *rayrobinson1108@gmail.com*

Anti-Recidivism Coalition – https://antirecidivism.org/

Bridge to Freedom – Provides transitional housing, job training and placement, and other support services – *https://bridge2freedom.org/*
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership - *http://www.workforceboard.org/*

BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development) – provides people, programs and pathways, including expungement and sealing of criminal records for that young people need to reject gang involvement - *https://www.buildchicago.org/*

Chicago Jobs Council Member Directory - *http://www.cjc.net/member_dir.php*

Chicago Prison Outreach Ministries – *http://www.cpoministries.org/*

Counseling First – case management with DUI offenders and diversion referrals. (312) 620-0896
Learn more from Cynthia Barry at *cynthia@counselingfirst.org*

Black and Pink - http://www.blackandpink.org/

Designing Justice +Designing Spaces - *https://designingjustice.org/*

Ex-cons for Community and Social Change - *https://www.facebook.com/TyroneECCSC/*
Learn more from Tyrone Farrakhan Muhammad at tyronemuhammad17@gmail.com or 708-677-8178

Families and Prisoners United
Learn more from Fahmi Jones at (312) 846-0744

Green Reentry – A project run by the Inner-City Muslim Action Network. They rehab foreclosed and vandalized property in Chicago Lawn. These are then used for transitional housing for ex-offenders during their reentry - *https://www.imancentral.org/project-green-reentry/*

Heartland Alliance, main number 312.660.1300
Learn more from Marlon Chamberlain at *mchamberlain@heartlandalliance.org* or (312) 216-0170,

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) - offers insurance to high-risk workers including ex criminals who need insurance to get certain types of jobs, through a Federal Bonding program -

Illinois Department of Employment Security / Chicago Jobs Council Website: Workforce Resources for those who Assist Ex-offenders - *www.ides.state.il.us/exoffenders*

Inmates for Change - http://illinoisinstitute.net/idea-exchange/inmates-for-change/
Learn more from Budder Jones at *inmatesforchange@yahoo.com*

Inner City Muslim Network, main number (773) 434-4626
Learn more from Shamar Hemphill, Director of Organizing, shamar@imancentral.org ,

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) – Focuses on ex-offenders building and/or maintaining relationships with their children, employment and life skills - https://www.lssi.org/services-prisonerfamily.php

MPOWR – A reentry network that connects many different people and organizations involved in the criminal justice system.

National H.I.R.E. Network / Legal Action Center - Services to ex-felons to help them in areas such as listing of agencies that help ex-felons with job placement - *http://www.hirenetwork.org/*

One Parish One Prisoner – a structured program organized and supported by Underground Ministries that enables a congregation of any faiths to impact the life of one prisoner by reaching out to engage in personalized reentry support as he or she prepares for release and navigates the challenges of reentry – *https://undergroundministries.org/chicago*

Phalanx Family Services – wrap-around supportive services, including employment readiness, vocational training, job placement, crisis prevention – *https://www.phalanxgrpservices.org/adult-k92up*

Re-Entry Illinois – A directory of services and reentry housing for ex-offenders in Illinois - *http://www.reentryillinois.net/*

Reentry Source – A large organization that has branches in multiple states, offering free reentry services for people with criminal records looking for a better life

Resource Directory of Reentry Friendly Services and Housing - developed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Chicago Metropolis 2020 - *www.reentryillinois.net/*

Roosevelt University Reentry Project
Learn more from David DiSabato at *ddisabat@gmu.edu* or 703.993.5212

Safer Foundation – Education , employment services, other services - *http://www.saferfoundation.org/*

7-70 Re-entry Services – A faith-based organization that provides coaching, mentoring, and counseling - http://70x7liferecovery.org/re-entry/

St Leonard's House – Provides transitional housing, job training and placement, and other support services - *http://slministries.org/*

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) –- advocacy and case management services - *http://www2.tasc.org/*

Teamwork Englewood – Serving the South Side of Chicago, supporting ex-offenders connect with partners at their headquarters in Englewood - *http://www.teamworkenglewood.org/index.html*

Thresholds –helping ex-offenders create better lives and stay out of prison - http://www.thresholds.org/

Transforming Reentry Services - services, advocacy, and research to fill in the gaps in the systems, restore families, and build economic and political power - *https://transformingreentry.org/*

Victors of Circumstance, www.victorsofcircumstance.org, located in the south suburbs
Learn more from John Karedis, President at *jkaredis@victorsofcircumstance.org* or 630-360-6618

Westside Health Authority, main number 773- 378-1878
Learn more from Roger Ehmen, Director of Re-entry Services at (773) 378-1878, and Quiwana Bell, COO at (708) 937-3733 or *qbell@healthauthority.org*

Woodlawn Community Reentry Project –
https://www.woodlawncommunityreentryprojectchicago.com/

Sources of Legal Aid for Accused and Those Released from Prison

Cook County Public Defender – *https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/public-defender-1* call
1(844) 81RIGHT i.e. 1(844) 817- 4448
24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Cabrini Green Legal Aid -*www.cgla.net*

Lawndale Christian Legal Center - *http://lclc.net/*

Uptown People's Law Center - https://www.uplcchicago.org/

Illinois Legal Aid Online - http://www.illinoislegalaidonline.org/

Juvenile Expungement Help Desk - in the Juvenile Court Building at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60612; call for more information: 312.347.8373

CGLA Expungement Help Desk, in room 1006 at the Daley Center, 312.850.4783

Advocacy in Illinois

Fall 2026 - Current Advocacy with the Illinois General Assembly

All hands on deck to pass Home for Good legislation (HB274) in the Illinois Senate this November during the fall veto session of the Illinois General Assembly, to expand housing access and support for people leaving prisons (it has already passed the House!)

Sign up here: https://secure.everyaction.com/OJUYwHFUU0qmbCYZJe0f-A2?blm_aid=21539

- to join a community canvas for Home for Good
- to join a community phone bank for Home for Good
- to join a digital day of action for Home for Good
- to be an advocate in Springfield during the fall veto session

Sign up to here: *https://homeforgoodillinois.com/waukeganrsvp/?blm_aid=21539*
to attend the Tuesday October 13 Home for Good Town Hall organized by Home for Good's Senate sponsor, Senator Adriane Johnson, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Waukegan at the Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO).

Advocacy with Governor Pritzker to Address Justice Issues

Go to
https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx
to write to Governor Prirzker, asking him to:

- Exercise his executive clemency powers in an expansive manner to address the historical harms and injustices of mass incarceration
- Encourage IDOC to use its discretion to release elderly people over age 55 with less than 12 months to serve and people serving Class 2-4 felonies.
- Commute the sentences of anyone over the age of 60.
- Encourage IDOC to expedite credit restoration, implementation of discretionary release programs, and every other step necessary to bring IDOC's population back to capacity.

Cook County Budget

Freezing Cook County Law Enforcement Spending to protect essential health and human services, in response to the deficit in the Cook County Budget – Groups need to complete and submit as soon as possible *the form appearing at this link* to join other groups in signing-on to *the letter appearing at this link to members of the Cook County Board*, asking the County Board

- to use the County's limited funds to protect essential health and human services by freezing law enforcement spending, and
- to reject the proposals that it has received to put essential health and human services at risk by continuing to increase the budgets of the Cook County Sheriff and the Cook County State's Attorney.

Cook County Jail Reform

***Sign the petition here*, asking Sheriff Dart to take measures to Stop the Loss of Life in the Jail and to Eliminate the Draconian Prohibition on Introduction of Paper into the Jail**

Chicago City Council – Contact information for future advocacy:

Find your Ward, your Alder and the Alder's Phone number here by entering your Street Address
Identify members of the committees of the City Council at this link:
https://chicago.councilmatic.org/committee/committee-on-workforce-development-0b950fd51e8b/

Advocacy Toolkit and Advocacy Training

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*

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

Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly – Spring 2026 session

Legislation proposed in the spring session of the legislature included –:

- Restricting Solitary Confinement - File SB 65/HB 1428 –the Nelson Mandela Act, which would restrict use of solitary confinement in Illinois, using data gathered under legislation passed in an last session of the General Assembly
  You can find more information on this bill here.

- Affordable communications with incarcerated at IDOC –HB 4235/SB 3386 - a new bill to keep families connected during incarceration through affordable communications – for discussion of the importance of this bill, see:
  https://www.restorejustice.org/bill/hb-4235/?mc_cid=c137e6a249&mc_eid=b92d12e360

- Cannabis Probable Cause –HB 4782, seeking to prevent law enforcement officers from stopping, searching, or detaining a driver solely based on the odor of burnt or raw cannabis, by removing the odor-proof container rule from the cannabis law.

- Credit for Change Act – which would allow everyone not serving life to be awarded sentence credits for good behavior.

- Day-for-Day Good Conduct Credit Act –which would give additional supervision credit for those on mandatory supervised release. Here is a one-pager with more details about the bill.

- Reintegration and Civic Empowerment (RACE) Act –which would expand civics education in Illinois prisons and restore voting rights to people who are currently incarcerated. More information about the act here: *Reintegration and Civic Empowerment (RACE) Act*
- SB 248 to give people sentenced to life without parole as children the chance to file a second post-conviction petition for reconsideration
- Expanding the Pretrial Success Grant Program –to address underlying challenges that have brought people into contact with the criminal legal system in the first place, by improving community safety and ensuring that people have the resources they need to succeed both during the court process and after their case concludes.

Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly – Spring 2025 session

The Following Bills Were Among Those Passed by the General Assembly and Sent to Governor Pritzker for his Signature – several relate to collection of data critical to future reform efforts:

Improving Public Defense – HB3363: the Funded Advocacy and Independent Representation Act (the FAIR Act), under which Illinois will establish an Office of the State Public Defender and will create a statewide system to ensure consistent, well-funded, and independent public defense services in Illinois
See: https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/wedidit?e=26813fbadd

Continued Funding for the Pretrial Success Act grant program, designed to insure success of the Pretrial Fairness Act reforms
See: https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/06/10/victory-pretrial-success-grant-program-preserved-funding-kept-for-critical-pretrial-servic es/

Youthful Parole – HB 2546, an important revision to the Youthful Parole Act that strengthens the existing Act by ensuring that eligible people can access a parole hearing on the correct timeline and not have to remain incarcerated longer while they wait for their hearing.

Fines & Fees –SB108, making the Cook County Traffic Fee Waiver Program permanent, a significant step toward reducing court debt for Illinois families

Policing -in Schools legislation requiring all public schools and districts in Illinois to stop issuing fines for disciplinary violations and to report annually to the state and make public how often they involve police in student matters, with data disaggregated by race, gender, and disability
see: https://davisvanguard.org/2025/06/illinois-bans-school-fines/

Civil Asset Forfeiture -- HB 1628, to improve data collection and transparency in Civil Asset Forfeiture – toward reforming the system in Illinois that allows the state to permanently seize someone's property
See: https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/05/27/hb1628-a-step-toward-enhancing-data-collection-and-transparency-in-reporting-civil-asset-forfeiture/

Contraband in Prisons – SB2201, mandating the collection and public reporting of prison contraband data, as in where it is found, and who in the facility (person in custody, staff, vendor, etc.) is in possession of or attempting to procure the contraband – part of the effort to improve the safety of everyone inside IDOC but not be unnecessarily punitive to people in custody.

Crime Data – HB1710: Homicide Data Transparency Act, requiring law enforcement agencies across Illinois to routinely publish detailed data on nonfatal shootings, homicides, and investigations.

Work will continue in the fall veto session of the General Assembly to pass the following bills:

Home For Good Legislation – SB2403 and HB3162, to provide for $103 million of investment that would expand housing access and housing support for people with arrest and conviction records

Detention for juveniles – to obtain Houe approval of SB1784, which would raise the minimum age of detention of juveniles from 10 to 13 and SB2156, which would create a Juvenile Detention Utilization Task Force to shift fiscal incentives away from detention to community alternatives
Go to this link for a: *Fact sheet on SB 1784*

Automating Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records in Illinois – to eliminate the (often prohibitively complicated) extra procedures that are now required for the individual to obtain the expungement and sealing to which he or she is entitled is entitled under the law.

Ending Lifelong Financial Punishment by Abolishing All Fees for All Public Conviction Registries – SB2197 / HB3469, to end lifelong registration fees for those convicted of crime
See this SB2197 / HB3469 fact sheet with information about the importance of this legislation

Post Conviction-Review SB 248, needing approval in the House, to amend to create fairness and consistency by allowing children and young people sentenced before the monumental U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Miller v. Alabama*, the same opportunity for a constitutional hearing as people sentenced after *Miller*.

Requests for Advocacy from Earlier Years

Limiting Solitary Confinement in Illinois:

Use this link to reach out to your legislators and ask for their support on SB 2257 / HB 4828 to limit the use of isolated confinement in Illinois correctional facilities.

Learn more about the bills here: SB 2257 / HB 4828.

Direct questions to James Swansey at jswansey@restorejustice.org.

Assuring Success of the Pretrial Justice Act. Use this link:

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-your-legislators-to-support-the-pretrial-success-act/ to tell your legislators you want them to vote for the Pretrial Success Act, a $15 million appropriations request that will expand access to health and human services for people awaiting trial. Learn more about the act here: the Pretrial Success Act,

Contact your legislators (find them here: *https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/)* and ask them to support these important reforms to our criminal legal system:

- the Felony Murder Bill (SB 2078/HB 3381), Fact Sheet, to end excessive sentencing under the felony murder rule
- the Mandatory Supervisor Release (MSR) Bill (HB 5487), Fact Sheet to allow early discharge for people who have satisfactorily met all required conditions of MSR
- Three Strikes Bill (SB 2079/HB 3380), Fact Sheet: Returns discretion to judges and the ends a costly, ineffective, and overly punitive sentencing practice.
- Joe Coleman Clean-up Bill (HB 5396), Fact Sheet: Provides minor but important clarifications/fixes to implement the bill as it was originally intended
- Juvenile right to counsel (SB3321) to guarantee counsel for all juveniles during custodial interrogation
- Juvenile detention (HB4776) to raise the age of admission to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice from 13 to 14

Raising the Minimum Age for Pretrial Detention of Juveniles in Illinois Gradually from 10 to 13

Call Senator. Elgie Sims - (773) 933-7715 to urge that he post HB 2347 in committee asap, as it has already passed the House and represents a compromise after a decade of negotiations on how to raise the age of detention to avoid harming children.

Access a fact sheet on the bill here:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63d1611dce49d866f7193ab1/t/659f04b6a3d0ca72f737242a/1704920248207/Det+Ref+fact+sheet+Jan+10%2C+2024.docx+%281%29+copy.pdf

Ending Prison Gerrymandering

- Call Senate President Don Harmon at (217) 782-8176 to ask that he schedule a vote on House Bill 1496, which would help with the proper implementation of the Illinois ban on prison gerrymandering.

Reintroducing Parole in Illinois

Monday Night Mobilizing with Parole Illinois – Join here for Zoom calls every Monday night from 7:00 to 7:45 to get updates and guidance on contacting legislators

Meeting ID: 814 3143 9034 Passcode: 740826

Learn more at:

https://mailchi.mp/27efead16b18/parole-illinois-september-newsletter-17625031?e=76688094e9

Tools for Ongoing Advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly

Learning about pending bills in the 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/*.

Filing Online Witness Slips Online for Committee Hearings in the Illinois General Assembly,

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:

It is important to emphasize:

a. 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

b. 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.

Contact Avalon Betts-Gaston 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

Ending our System of Permanent Punishments:

Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments ***https://endpermanentpunishments.org/*** and the Fully Free Campaign https://fullyfree.org/ seek 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/

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

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*
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

U.S. Justice Reform

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>.

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.

The Toxic Prisons Project is a participatory research initiative to map the environmental hazards that prisons, jails, and detention centers face from extreme heat, air pollution, flooding and more Learn more about participating in the project at *https://www.toxicprisons.com/*

Advocacy for Proposed Federal Legislation

December 2024 Letter of the Clean Slate Initiative Urging the Trump-Vance Administration to Champion Clean Slate Legislation
https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/updates/trump-vance-letter

"US judicial panel endorses independence for federal public defenders," a December 19, 2024 article by Nate Raymond of Reuters
https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-judicial-panel-endorses-independence-federal-public-defenders-2024-12-19 /

End The Exception Campaign – Use the following link to email your members of Congress asking them to support the Abolition Amendment pending in Congress to end the exception in the 13th Amendment of the Constitution allowing slavery for those who are incarcerated:
https://endtheexception.com/?link_id=0&can_id=689bd60994fb87e18417721714bf5f2d&source=email-slavery-was-never-abolished-it-was-moved-behind-prison-walls&email_referrer=email_1801263&email_subject=slavery-was-never-abolished-it-was-moved-behind-prison-walls

Illinois Legislative Archive – Justice Reform Bills Considered in Prior 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 Priorites for the November Veto Session :
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 Devender 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 in the future

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 minimizes local housing authority restrictions/bans for people with records).

Contact Betsy Clarke or Luis Klein of the Juvenile Justice Initiative at bcjuv@aol.com or 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 W*ork 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=IwAR2sD1OlM5NHYUIXz0W0VgNLDu-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
(2nd 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
- (2nd 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
(2nd 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://digitaledition.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
(2nd 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
(2nd 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
(2nd 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
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
(2nd 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 2nd 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/.

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*

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: jji@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* or Michael Lane *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*

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*

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.imancentral.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*

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*

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/