

WHEREAS, Each recidivism event in Illinois costs \$118,746, with a total 5 year cost of \$16.7 billion to the State; and

WHEREAS, Reducing recidivism rates can save the State hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, The Safer Foundation found that less than one in five ex-offenders returned to prison within three years of their release from prison after receiving a job opportunity; and

WHEREAS, After an offender has successfully served a sentence, the presumption should be that the offender has paid his or her "debt to society"; and

Committee on Public Safety

WHEREAS, A criminal record should not play a role in an ex-offender's everyday life, except where absolutely and clearly necessary to protect public safety; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That we the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby urge the Illinois General Assembly to pass meaningful record sealing reform to allow rehabilitated individuals the opportunity to move on from their past.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Governor Bruce Rauner, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, Illinois Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno, Illinois Speaker of the House of Representatives Michael Madigan, Illinois House of Representatives Minority Leader Jim Durkin and the Chicago delegation of the Illinois State General Assembly.