

Calling your legislator about Clean Slate Legislation

Helpful hints:

- The **phone numbers** of the offices of your senators and representatives are available on Michigan.gov website under "**Government**."
- Telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not a legislator. **Ask to speak with the aide** who handles criminal justice issues.
- Speaking with a staff member is important, as well. **Legislative staffers are very influential** and play a key role in advising legislators on issues.
- After identifying yourself, **tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message**, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative [Name] that I support/oppose (HB_____)."
- State reasons for your support or opposition to the bill. **Be clear, concise and focused.**
- **Ask for the senator's or representative's position** on the bill.

Sample call script to state legislator:

Hello, Representative [Representative's last name] office.

Hi, this is [your name] and I live in [your city]. I'd like to speak to the staffer who works on criminal justice issues.

Hold on please while I check if that person is available. (pause) I'm sorry, our aide is not available right now. Can I take a message?

I am a member of [insert affiliation] in your district.

I'm calling about the House Bill 4984 sponsored by Representative. David LaGrand, a Democrat serving House District 75. This bill expands the amount of former criminal offenses eligible to be set-aside from one felony and two misdemeanors to two felonies or up to four misdemeanors.

I am also calling about HB 4980 sponsored by Rep. Eric Leutheuser, HB 4982 sponsored by Rep. Luke Meerman, HB 4985 sponsored by Rep. Sherry Day-Dagnogo, HB 4981 sponsored by Rep. Pauline Wendzel, and HB 4983 sponsored by Rep. Yousef Rabhi.

This Clean Slate package makes it easier for people to get a second chance after they've served their criminal sentences, paid their debt to society, and remained crime-free. It does that by setting-aside their public criminal records and, in certain cases, making that process automatic after 10 years.

I'd like the [senator/representative] to support smart policies that remove unnecessary barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated people.

Thanks for your message. Can I get your full name, address, and telephone number?

[Share full name and address and telephone number]

Thank you. I will pass along your message to the senator/representative.

Thank you.

Questions? Contact John Cooper, Executive Director of Safe & Just Michigan, at 517.258.1134 or john@safeandjustmi.org

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www.safeandjustmi.org

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