



**2023 POLICY AGENDA**

Our policy advocacy strategies advance social, economic, and racial justice. We center the experiences and expertise of directly impacted people and collaborate with local, state, and national advocates to develop and advocate for bold policy solutions that create lasting social change.

# Scales of justice with solid fillSAFETY & JUSTICE - FULLY FREE CAMPAIGN www.fullyfree.org

The Fully Free Campaign works with leaders across the State of Illinois to dismantle the laws and regulations that govern permanent punishments, which are the barriers that deny or restrict rights and opportunities for people with a record, long after their involvement with the criminal legal is over. In Illinois, there are hundreds of permanent punishment laws, denying people employment, education, housing, and the abillity to fully pursue all opportunities.

**The FREE Act**

The FREE Act restores dignity and honor to families throughout Illinois to carry out the last wishes and affairs of loved ones. Families should be FREE to choose who takes on this sacred duty. People living with a record should be FREE to honor their family and fulfill their loved one’s wishes.

Current law prohibits anyone with a felony conviction from serving as the executor of an estate after a family member or loved one has passed away. This antiquated law is not supported by evidence and is out of step with the needs of Illinois families. In Illinois, over 600,000 people have a felony conviction on their record and are prohibited from putting their loved one’s affairs in order as excutor.

The FREE Act amends the Illinois Probate Act so that people may designate whomever they choose as an executor, including people with a felony conviction if they acknowledge in the will that they are aware of their preferred executor’s conviction. It brings Illinois one step closer to dismantling the permanent punishments constructed from years of punitive and misguided policies. (SB 1502/HB 1268)

**Fully Free Civic Engagement Bill Package**

Illinois law is riddled with provisions that keep people with records from fully participating in their community and limits their civic engagement. This bill aims to eliminate the largest barriers to civic engagement under Illinois law, including:

* Allowing people with criminal records to run for municipal office, except that those with a conviction for official misconduct or violations of the election code have a five-year waiting period after their conviction.
* Allowing individuals with records to be appointed to important roles in their community, like the Gaming Board or the Ethics Commission, requiring disclosure of any conviction to the appointing authority only when there is a relationship between the conviction and the work of the commission.

# Court outlineECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – FIAI financialinclusionforall.org

Financial Inclusion for All Illinois (FIAI) is a statewide coalition committed to expanding access to the tools families need to build financially secure futures. We advocate for policy and program solutions that address the growing racial wealth divide.

**Protect Consumers**

End Abuses in the Credit Repair Industry by prohibiting “credit repair” organizations from requiring payment without first providing proof of lasting results and strengthening enforcement of existing federal law to better protect consumers. (SB2135 Feigenholtz/HB 3461 Meyers-Martin)

Strengthen and Reform Car Insurance Rate Regulation by creating a fairer and more affordable insurance market for consumers by preventing auto insurance companies from charging customers based on non-driving factors that reflect socioeconomic status rather than driving safety. (HB 2203 Guzzardi)

Uphold and Defend the Predatory Loan Prevention Act, which sets a 36% interest rate cap on payday and auto title loans.

Advocate for necessary resources to ensure the availability of credit to individuals, households and small businesses in low- and moderate-income communities and communities of color.

**Reform Burdensome Debt Collection Practices, Fines & Fees**

Reform debt collection practices to help ensure that consumer debts are enforced fairly, and are not able to overwhelm families struggling to pay their basic living expenses. (SB 2220 Martwick/HB 2377 Gong-Gershowitz)

**Increase Cash to Families**

Strengthen Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) by increasing the grant to 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to help families move out of extreme poverty and meet their most basic needs. (HB 3950 Evans/SB 1580 Johnson)

Establish a Child Tax Credit (CTC) whereby eligible low- and middle-income Illinois families would receive a $700 tax credit for each child under the age of 17 to help with the rising cost of living. (HB 3950/SB 1444 Simmons)

Establish an automated filing process to allow individuals who are eligible for the federal and state EITC but are under the federal filing thresholds to easily claim their state Earned Income Credit. (HB 3298 Moeller)

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