



# SUPPORT Families' Right to Estate Equity (FREE) Act (SB3098/HB4490)

**Reps. Collins - Ramirez - Gordon-Booth - Flowers;** West, Greenwood, Guzzardi, Lilly, Evans, Cassidy, Mah, B. Hernandez, Meyers-Martin, Stava-Murray, Gonzalez, Davis, Ammons, J. Williams, Nichols, Harper, Mayfield, Slaughter, Ford.

**Sens. Johnson - Collins;** Hunter, Peters, Villanueva, Villa, Pacione-Zayas.

**SUMMARY:** 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.

## THE PROBLEM

Current law prohibits anyone with a felony conviction from serving as an executor or administrator of an estate after a family member or loved one has passed away. There is no evidence or justification for this law.

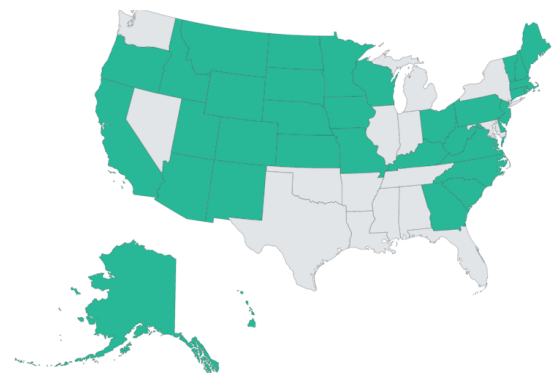
## THE IMPACT

In Illinois, over 600,000 people have a felony conviction. This is 600,000 people and their families who experience further anxiety and stress by limiting their ability to choose a loved one who is best positioned to handle this responsibility.

## THE SOLUTION

SB3098/HB4490 removes language in the Illinois Probate Act that prohibits anyone with a felony conviction from serving as an executor or administrator of an estate.

**35 states** do not have a state law preventing people with felony convictions from being an executor of a will or estate:



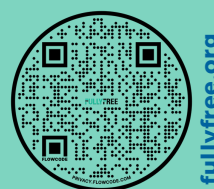
The fastest-growing prison population is women-identified, **increasing 646%** from 1980 to 2010.\*

Since 1979, almost half of people with felony convictions in Illinois – **45.3%** – were Black.\*

Source: *Never Fully Free: The Scale and Impact of Permanent Punishment on People with Criminal Records*, page 51 (Table A4) & page 35.

**THE FULLY FREE CAMPAIGN ADVOCATES FOR URGENT, COMPREHENSIVE POLICY CHANGE.**

Too many people in Illinois are suffering from the impact of permanent punishments, and piecemeal reform is taking too long. We need Illinois to act boldly and holistically to make sure that people with records can fully participate in society and be free.





## SUPPORT Families' Right to Estate Equity (FREE) Act (SB3098/HB4490)

After two years of Illinois families grieving for family members lost to the pandemic, the FREE Act restores dignity and honor to people with records who can carry out the last wishes and affairs of loved ones.

### SUPPORTERS OF THE FREE ACT INCLUDE:

- ACLU of Illinois
- Alliance for Safety and Justice
- All of Us or None of Us
- Beyond the Walls
- Brothers Standing Together
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Community Renewal Society
- Envisioning Justice
- Equity and Transformation
- First Followers
- Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice
- Illinois Justice Project
- Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
- League of Women Voters Illinois
- Live Free Illinois
- Mclean Reentry Council
- People's Liberty Project
- Restore Justice Illinois
- Safer Foundation
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Sir Donald Foundation
- The Chicago 400

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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