

HB 3215

REP. SLAUGHTER & REP. AMMONS

THE SAFER COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESS ACT

HB 3215 would establish a living wage job creation program for up to 16,000 formerly incarcerated workers, and offer employers wage subsidies for hiring workers with conviction records into new, high-quality jobs. The bill would also provide targeted grants to small businesses that hire formerly incarcerated workers to help cover the cost of on-the-job training.

FAIR JOB ACCESS FOR RETURNING ILLINOISANS

REMOVE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT



Unemployment among people with conviction records is five times the overall national rate. **Half of all returning Illinoisans are unable to obtain stable employment** within 8 months of release.

Those who do secure work, earn significantly lower wages. **Incarceration cuts a workers annual earnings by 40%**



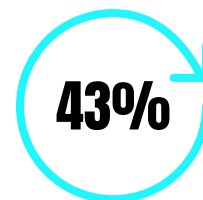
16,000
New Jobs

By investing in high quality jobs for formerly incarcerated Illinoisans, the SAFER Communities & Small Business Act would promote opportunity and narrow the unfair earnings gap for tens of thousands of Illinoisans with conviction records.

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO REAL PUBLIC SAFETY

EQUITABLE JOB ACCESS REDUCES RECIDIVISM

Without fair access to jobs, **43% of re-entering Illinoisans will return to prison** within 3 years. This cycle of re-incarceration undermines the safety and economic stability of re-entering individuals, as well as their families and communities.



When individuals returning from incarceration become stably employed, their risk of **recidivism drops by 62%**.

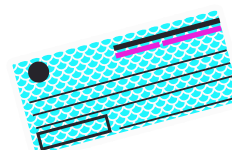


By investing in new jobs for 16,000 formerly incarcerated Illinoisans, the SAFER Communities Act would reduce recidivism rates, paving the way to real public safety.

A STRONG AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY FOR ILLINOIS

ECONOMIC RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES

The SAFER Communities & Small Business Act would deliver critical economic relief **to 10,000 small businesses via targeted grants** to cover the costs of on-the-job training for returning workers.



Investment in wage subsidies would provide **financial support to local businesses** impacted by the long term effects of the pandemic, and help **offset the rising cost of labor**.