



## **Support HB3142: Increasing Educational Opportunities for People with Criminal Records**

Wheeler, B.-Flowers-Lilly, Cassidy

---

**THE PROBLEM:** People with criminal records are being deterred from getting an education.

The majority of colleges ask about an applicant's criminal record. But, asking this question has a chilling effect – discouraging individuals with criminal records from completing the application.

With about 42% of Illinois adults having a criminal record, it is critical that we address this barrier to education.

**THE SOLUTION:** HB3142 will “ban the box” in the higher education admissions process.

HB3142 prevents higher education institutions from asking about or considering a person's criminal record for purposes of admission.

*Evidence shows that asking about a criminal record at admission does nothing to protect public safety, but seeing the “box” on school applications prevents individuals from trying to apply to higher education.*

- HB3142 does not prohibit a college or university to consider a person's criminal record after admission, including for offering campus housing, participating in campus activities, or to provide career counseling.
- HB3142 still allows campuses and universities to use the common application, which helps ensure a higher number of applicants.

***Higher education dramatically reduces recidivism and helps individuals build financially stable futures.***



HB3142 is Supported  
by the Following Organizations:

ACLU of Illinois

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Chicago Urban League

Community Renewal Society

Growing Home, Inc.

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

Mexican American Legal Defense Fund

Safer Foundation

SEIU - HCII

Uptown People's Law Center