

## **Support HB3142: Increasing Educational Opportunities for People with Criminal Records** Wheeler, B.-Flowers-Lilly, Cassidy

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

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.

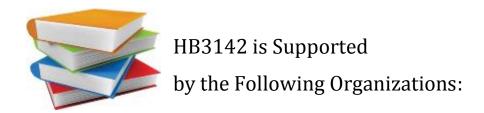
HB3142 prevents higher education institutions from asking about or considering a person's criminal record for purposes of admission.

education.

- o 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.
- o HB3142 still <u>allows</u> 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.

Questions: Sam Tuttle, Heartland Alliance, 773-480-3711; Khadine Bennett, ACLU, 312-607-3355.



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