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June 17, 2021



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The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N. Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 9581

RE: SB 731 (Durazo): Sunset Conviction Records – (Support)

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer, Sr.,

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], we are pleased to support SB 731 (Durazo). Thousands of laws, policies and practices create barriers to success for people living with a conviction record. Attempting to reverse or change each of them would be difficult, laborious, and extremely costly. Instead, SB 731 (Durazo) adopts a structured approach to expanding arrest and conviction record relief: 1) expand automatic arrest record sealing to felony arrest, if the individual was neither charged nor convicted either six years after the arrest, or otherwise three years after the arrest for less serious felonies; 2) expand automatic conviction record relief to nonserious, nonsexual, and nonviolent felonies after an individual completes all terms of incarceration, probation, and a further period of four years without any new convictions. This sealing would be available to individuals retroactive to January 1, 2005 and allow for a petition-based process that will be executed on a case-by-case basis with final decision-making authority retained by the courts.

[INSERT A PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

Examples of these barriers are felt by families seeking to live outside of impoverished areas, individuals that want careers in education or healthcare, others who want to coach, homeowners that want to join their HOA board, couples that want to adopt, or grandchildren that want to care for their elderly grandparent. Old conviction records go beyond economics and into denial of human decency, family responsibility, and basic citizenship.

Lack of access to employment and housing are primary factors driving recidivism, and conviction records are serious barriers to successful reentry and come at a cost of \$20 billion annually to California's economy. Nationally, it has been estimated that the U.S. loses roughly \$372.3 billion per year because of employment losses among people living with convictions.

For these reasons, [YOUR ORGANIZATION] is proud to support SB 731 (Durazo).
[INSERT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HERE]

Sincerely, [INSERT YOUR SIGNATURE, TITLE, AND ORGANIZATION]