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Testimony submitted by:

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PART 1: Introduction of presenter Background and historic experiences.

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PART 3: Five points of concern with recommendation.

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Part 1: introduction of Presenter: CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPERIENCES

I will be upfront as I always am particularly when talking about the criminal justice system, wiping away someone's record through this system might be easy, and less work than the "system" we already have in place. But in almost every case we might be talking about, it is totally unnecessary, especially if you are using this to help offenders get employment. Getting a job with some minor record is easy. But if an employer finds out you lied on your application, or find out after it is too late, I guarantee they will be less likely to take a chance on anyone else they suspect had a criminal record. With minor criminal offenses there are very few places you cannot find employment. But hide or lie about it, just does not work for employers.

My name is Terry L. Davis, now the owner of Keystone Correctional Services, Inc. a private work release program for state parolees in the Central Region of Pennsylvania. This is my 13th years owning and operating KCSI and have a contract for 160 State Parolees who have no legal resident to return to, or who have violated parole and are placed here. I am proud to say, that we are one of the very best centers at getting these men decent jobs, and a chance to leave here with hope.

I would believe that if you asked the Administration of the Department of Corrections they would verify, that we do an excellent job with the men who are assigned here. If you were to talk to offenders still incarcerated in the State Prison system, the word is if you want to get a job, go to Keystone. These are facts.

However, owning KCSI this is the part of my story that is way towards the end of this career. This started way back in 1972, and in a few months, it will be 50 years of working with offenders in our criminal justice system.

I was the Director of Dauphin county Adult Probation and parole, working there for 35 years. I also retired from the PA Army national guard as A Lt. colonel, promoted to colonel upon retirement. 30.5 years

I attended Harrisburg Area Community College and received an associate degree in Police Administration. I later earned my bachelor's degree from Penn State Harrisburg, in Social Sciences.

And I now have a master's Degree in Administration of Criminal justice from Penn State University, University Park.

My senior year at Penn State Harrisburg, I did an internship in Dauphin county Probation Office, and was hired in the same semester as a full time Adult Probation and Parole Officer November 1972. Graduated after the next semester with my bachelor's degree.

In the role of Adult Probation and Parole Officer, I of course worked with criminal offenders under my direct supervision. And took this very seriously and professionally, and with a conviction that I was there for a purpose. I never looked at my job as just a place to go to work. I spent many evenings and weekends working, even though my boss did not want me out in the community, I did it anyway. I visited my clients at their homes, their employment, in the streets of Dauphin County to insure them that I was and would be involved in their commitment to not breaking any more laws. I figured out at a very early part of my career, that I never wanted my clients to ever say to me or anyone else, that Terry Davis did not do his job. I was not going to embarrass myself or my reputation, by being a lousy probation officer. And my reputation in this "system" is well noted by anyone who knew me and what I was all about. That is one reason I am still in this profession because I do love what I can do and do for offenders that I work with.

It was not that long after I started, I was promoted to the Supervisor of the Adult Criminal Unit and one year later promoted to chief Adult Probation Officer September 30, 1980.

In this role I worked for the Court. The 6 Judges and had to prove myself to them. This did not take me very long. I took an office of 13 staff and wrote close to 250 million of dollars in grants from 1981 to 2007 to help develop programs that I created that were new and intense programs to ensure offenders were supervised correctly, required to fulfill the obligations that the Court imposed, and found ways to help offenders who wanted help and for those who did not, I found suitable consequences for them as well.

I made a statement in my interview for the Chief's position, that I would enforce the collections of fines, costs, and restitution. We had just previously did a review and the total collections was around \$300,000 a year and there were millions of dollars out standing and not collected by the previous administration. The Court did not really think I could make an impact on this, but after 6 months I went back and proved I was making a difference. By the end of my first year, we collected over one million dollars. This increased for the next several years and about 1990 I was collecting over seven million dollars a year in Court ordered money. My staff also insured offenders who owed child support and were on supervision with us, also was paying those debts as well.

As my career developed, and the insistence on paying Court ordered money, meant my clients needed to have a legal income source, which meant we needed to help and make sure our clients had employment. This was part of my learning curve, that it is not

impossible to find employment for my clients, but it will require them to really want employment and in some cases we need to find ways to make them want to go to work. I instilled this in my staff, that we were here not to find a way to put them back in prison, but to try to keep them out of prison. And we grew a pretty good network of possible employers for our men and women. We worked hard at this, and we were successful, or we could have never collected the above amount of fees during my career and under my guidance.

I figured out that for men offenders I needed to find a way to get them employed and give them responsibility and that bring self-esteem to individuals, I might have a chance to help change lives. My reputation grew in Central Pennsylvania area that I would help anyone who wanted the help. And I was able to help my clients get employment as I met with employers and gave them my card and told them to take a risk and if things did not work out, call me and I would be there to help them deal with the situation. By the time I was chief, I had made many contacts, and this was beneficial to many offenders who came into our system.

After 10 or so years, of being Chief/Director of Adult Probation and Parole, I asked the Court to make me the Warden of the County Prison. The Judges did not want me to do that, and I did not get the job. But Judge Warren G. Morgan understood why I wanted to go to the prison to make changes I felt needed to be done. He called in the new Warden. Asked him how he felt about work Release in which the Warden said he hated Work release. The next day I was court ordered to be the new Work Release Coordinator in my present position as Director of Adult Probation, Parole and now Work Release.

My reasons for wanting to run work release were that Judges sentence offenders to county prison for an average of 4 to 5 months. Offenders who had jobs the day they went to court, lost their job as soon as they could not go back due to incarceration. We only had 12 men on work release in the prison program in 1991. I wrote a grant and got two Modular building put inside the prison fences which would house 196 prisoners. The Warden only gave me one of the two buildings. 98 beds. He and the Deputy Warden who soon after became Warden hated me in there and made it difficult for me to get the inmates out to work. I quickly increased the number to 60 men and in a few years got 10 to 15 women on work release. I saw the future in there was not conducive to my objectives and in 1995 wrote another large grant and built a new center outside at 917 /919 Gibson Blvd Steelton, A which opened April 1, 1996. This was a 120-bed facility ran completely by me and the Court of Dauphin County. I was the first ever Director of Probation to also operate a Work Release program outside the prison control. In 2 years, seeing into the future of prison population I built a second building which then increased my ability for more men on work release, and that opened in 1999. I increased that to 360 bed program and averaged 330

men a day on work release. All of them employed with at least one full time job and many had part time work as well. This kind of proves that criminal offenders can get jobs. FACT.

The Dauphin County Prison collected \$12,000 in work release rent from the 12 or so men in the program a year for rent. By the time I had 330 men in the program I was collected 1.5 million for rent a year. All that money went to the local taxpayers in savings of cost in running the program. Meanwhile they also paid fines, costs, restitution, child support, or any other Court ordered money. Over the rent cost. They also bought their own food, cooked, and cleaned up after themselves, paid their own transportation, and the County was not responsible for medical expenses. This proves that the jobs I got them or got them to keep the jobs they had were sufficient for them to pay their day to day living costs while in the Center, which proves that they could sustain themselves once released. FACT.

This program saved over \$7 million a year in prison costs to Dauphin County and by now I had also totally turned the collection of Court Ordered Money into what it should have always been. You pay for what you do attitude. I was collecting over 7million dollars a year in fines, costs and restitution from offender's court ordered to pay these fees. And I feel is their responsibility for their actions and to pay back as part of their rehabilitation. I would be more than capable of explaining this to you if any of you would like to know my opinion on why it is important for offenders to pay the costs back to the taxpayers and victims for their actions.

To make this simple, we the taxpayers pay a lot of money to operate the criminal justice systems, let alone not make the negative users of this system, pay nothing. That pretty much explains my philosophy. And I made it work without being unfair, and abusive.

And every man in the Work Release center had a job. There was no issue on getting these men work. Many kept the job they had when they were arrested and put into our program. The others I had an employee who was the person who was out doing what I did as a young probation Officer finding businesses who would hire our men and he did that successfully as well.

Finding work for offenders was never really a big issue. I did it in the early 70's as a field officer and then once I built the work release centers, I have facts to prove they all had jobs. This dates to 1992 when I took over Work Release. And has continue right up to 2022.

The only people who cannot get a job are severely disabled, and even some of them can and do get work. Or offenders who want to play the "I cannot get a job card, because ____!" this is an excuse today that has no basis but lazy or stupid, or they will just let the

government pay their way. I try to teach getting a job gives you self-pride and that generates them turning into people we want living in our community.

I have worked with men and women who have gotten themselves into this situation one way or another. Today many have turned their lives around because of having a means to prove to themselves - they have worth to their community in spite of the bad decisions they made in their past, and now have also proven themselves to their employer, and their families. This is an important part of where they will go next.

It is not the clean slate of a criminal record that is holding many people back, but an excuse to not try their hardest. Programs that I have started, prove this over and over. We need to teach responsibility, why it is important to change, and the difference your life can be when making that change. Believe me, it happens and can happen to some of the worst people I have dealt with in my 50 years working with offenders. I can assure you that offenders can get jobs with a criminal record.

I have proven that you can get offenders to go to work, and now after opening my private community corrections center, and let me say I invite each and every one of you to visit my center at 7201 Allentown Blvd. Harrisburg 17112. I have between 140 and 160 men in my program and almost everyone in there who wants to work, we can get them work. The Commonwealth has given me some men who are physically unable to sustain some full-time work, and some who are old that employers would be reluctant to take on, due to age and physical restraints they have. My full-time employment staff person has gotten the guys jobs making good money and many have advanced within the company to salaries of over \$30.00 an hour. All of them have criminal records, and some serious charges, but we have still gotten them hired and now they are proving themselves to their bosses and most importantly to themselves that they can be successful. All of them have served time in the State prison system.

I had a guy stop in to pick up something after being released back to parole. He told me that he got a job in a warehouse, did what he was to do, and is now a supervisor. He met a lady working there they are getting married, and she too is a supervisor there. they both are making over \$30.000 an hour and he bought his first car, and they are looking for a house to buy. Not rent but buy a house. He told me he could never had done this without his visit to us and what we did for him. This is not a one-time story. Here or in my career with helping offenders. Sure, we have some who fail. Sometimes it seems like too many, who go back to drugs now that they have money, and the new marijuana laws are ruining many of these guys. They will say to us, it is legal, and they can buy it and we have nothing to stop them from using marijuana if they get the "card". We have ways to deal with this, but these laws are not working for helping men and women getting out of prison go in the

right direction. I have a lot of comments on this subject as well. Which needs really something done to stop this behavior. The men we get have addictive personalities with that kind of mentalities because of their history and now they think they can do it legally and all will be good for them. Not so. Employers do not want workers high on marijuana while working in warehouses, kitchens, or businesses.

Working in the field of Probation and Prole for 35 years I did a lot of supervision of thousands and thousands of offenders. I feel I have a pretty good understanding of what this community deals with in getting back to law abiding citizens. Giving clean slate to everyone is not necessary. And may be a serious issue for you all to face if this goes as I would predict.

PART 2: Examples of client's history that shows success through experiences.

Examples of Offenders whom I have worked with that have made positive changes during my intervention with them. and I will say this over and over. I take no credit for their successes, but I also take no blame for offenders' failures. Everyone must take responsibility for themselves. The consequences are determined by you, not me. However, these following cases are what keep people like me knowing why we keep coming back every day.

Case 1: Ted

Early in my career as a Probation Officer, I had a young man who lived on Crescent Street in Harrisburg, who was just a bad kid living in a bad neighborhood at that time. I was constantly dealing with his behavior, and he eventually committed a crime that got him sent to State prison. He was on a porch roof, jumped off and hit an elderly man walking on the sidewalk with a Ball-peen hammer on the top of his head. Almost killed the man. He stole the little bit of money the man had and fled the scene. Was arrested and sent to State Prison. I have told this story to almost anyone who will listen. This case taught me a life lesson. I will Call him Ted. And as I said he had no good qualities when this happened, and I of course also revoked the parole he was being supervised for and Ted went to State. To this day I have never seen him face to face. But I have heard his story. After doing his time in prison, where he learned some building trades, came home, and went to work doing construction. He eventually started his own business, married had a few children, and one day save his daughter from drowning. It was at that point, or so I have been told his life changed. He continued working doing roofing and similar work. He has retired and sold his business for over a million dollars. He has been crime free and was clearly a person I had no hope for. The lesson for me was that I can never give up on anyone who is assigned to me, and if Ted can change then maybe many others can too. My position in

this "System" is not to Judge, but for me to make sure I never quit on anyone who comes to me under the conditions I work in. Ted deserves a pardon. But even after I talked to his sister one day a year or so ago, he has never reached out to me to talk about his life. He taught me a very valuable lesson as a young man in this career.

Case 2: Ray

The next person I will talk about I will call him Ray, and Ray has quite a history going back many years. My office supervised him for numerous cases, and I personally worked with him from time to time trying to help him. Ray was a very interesting case, in that he would come so close to successfully getting off supervision, and then bam would mess up. I do not know the number of times our office put Ray back into prison for his bad decisions. This probably goes back into the late 1980's and I can bring him in to meet anyone of you at your convenience. He is a black man as well and he will tell you how much I mean to him because I was always there when he came back, and we started all over until he finally got there. I never quit on Ray throughout his issues. There was something about him, and yes, he has personality, and a gift of "bull" that makes me smile, but even though he had potential, he kept going back to prison. He eventually got involved in an incident a man died because of it. Ray went to State Prison and several years later, after I retired from Dauphin county and opened my private facility, Ray showed up there. Did two 8 to 9 months stay with us, got released and eventually walked off his parole. Maybe 5 or 6 years passed and he came back to see me. this is a long story, but even while in prison I wrote to him and was giving him advice. He told me the one letter I sent to him hangs on his refrigerator and every day he touches it to remind him of my advice. I hired him and he works for me now at KCSI and his message to other men is powerful, and yet I still need to teach him and work with him to insure he continues doing the good things he is now doing.

He had met with the Pardon Board Chairman, and I believe his paperwork is in for consideration. I will be assisting him in the hearing process when it occurs.

Case 3 Michelle

This woman was young when she got into the system. She came from a pretty good family but married a man who pretty much set the tone in the house. They had 4 children quickly after getting married, and then they both started drinking excessively. Her first name is Michele.

They both ended up on probation supervision for D.U.I. and alcohol related issues. They fought a lot and had plenty of Police interaction.

The long story is after being arrested for child neglect over a fight between the two of them, her intoxicated husband drove to their local bar and that upset Michelle, so she drove to the same bar to continue the argument. Upon arrival the husband notified the Police that she was there intoxicated and she had left the children home unattended. The Police went to the address of their home and found the 4 children about the same time she drove up. She was arrested for another D.U.I., and the neglect charge. There were several other situations which seemed to continue for probably 10 plus years. I finally intervened in the case, informing the parents that they no longer had any control of her, and that from that date on she would be supervised by me personally and that she either did what I told her to do or she would be in Dauphin county Prison. I told them I would block the two of them getting custody and have the kids placed under Children and youth and placed in other homes. They were too old to care for these 4 kids, and Michelle needed an incentive to do what I told her to do. I got her and her husband in my office and told them if they both were on parole; they could not see or be around each other under any circumstance. The Husband was more than happy about this, and Michelle moved to Lancaster city. Got herself into a family shelter, enrolled in college, and secured some work. She eventually graduated and got a job as a medical technician. Her kids were growing up and in High School or Middle School and were really helping their mom get it together. Today only one is left in High School and Michelle is doing very well. However, the child neglect case has impacted her career, and this has caused us to apply for the Pardon to permit her to work anywhere in a hospital.

I am assisting her in the Pardon process and has filed her paperwork.

Case 4 Darrion FELONY DRUG OFFENDER. PROOF YOU CAN WORK.

Darrion was more than just a bad kid when he was on supervision with Dauphin County. He probably reached the level of Gangster. He eventually was sent to State Prison, where he belonged at that time in his life. He was selling drugs by the truckload and doing other related criminal activity that goes along with the drug business. He did a lot of time, but in 2010 was released to my new facility just after I opened it. he was in the first group of inmates sent to KCSI. Upon arriving he re-introduced himself to me and began assisting my new staff in calming down the other new placements in my program. Telling them if "Mr. Davis said he will help you, just sit and wait your turn." He told them, Mr. Davis is straight and helps everyone who deserves it and for them to be patient since we just opened up and he had all brand-new staff." I was quite intrigued

Another real long story, but Darrion has been released from KCSI back around 2010 and has never been back. He served out his parole time and has been free ever since. He calls me every month almost without fail to talk to me and to tell me what is going on with his life. He moved to Ohio and brought in his wife and maybe 8-year-old son to meet me. He wanted me to talk to his son and teach him some of my lessons that I do for my clients. He wanted his wife to meet the person he said is the only person in the system he trusted and respected. He is totally off supervision, and I told him I had no legal right to be in contact with him, but he calls me and shares his positive life with me. He is working and each time tells me what he is doing and how much he loves his life now. He has many jobs, but he is always employed doing something to keep bettering himself.

I am amazed at his change from Gangster to this new guy, who believe me no one would have expected it. I have supported him, and he too has put in paperwork for a Pardon. His record is bad, and his chances are going to be challenging. But I told him I would go with him to his hearing if he is granted one. I will probably be the only person who will speak up for him, but he at least deserves to be heard and then it is up to the Pardon Board and the Governor.

DARRION IS A CLASSIC CASE OF A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS DRUG HISTORY, WAS SELLING POUNDS AND POUNDS OF SERIOUS DRUGS EARLY IN HIS LIFE. SINCE LEAVING MY FACILITY IN 2010 HE HAS HAD JOBS AS THE MAIN DISTRIBUTOR OF A ROMAN NOODLE BUSINESS, WAS LEAD EMPLOYEE WITH A MANUFACTURER OF PLAYGROUND MATERIALS, HE WAS INSTALLING AND SELLING THE PRODUCT THROUGHOUT SEVERAL STATES AROUND PENNSYLVANIA. HE HAS WORKED DOING MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AND HAS ONLY BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR ONLY A FEW WEEKS THROUGHOUT THESE 12 YEARS.

TODAY HE IS RUNNING HIS OWN SECURITY BUSINESS GUARDING PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FIGURES AND MUSICIANS, LIVING IN OHIO.

IF DARRION CAN GET A JOB, WELL ANYONE WHO WANTS TO CHANGE THEIR PAST. CAN GET WORK!

Case 5 Jerome

This man was arrested for molesting his 5 children. Somehow, the day of sentencing the Dauphin county Judge gave him probation, but it had to do with a promise he would put his kids in Milton Hershey School. When the man came to my office for intake, he told my staff he changed his mind. At which point I was called and gave him the rest of that week, this being a Monday, he had to have the paperwork done by Friday morning to submit to Milton Hershey School or he would go back before the Judge.

He left our office and by Wednesday instead of going to Milton Hershey School, he went to a gun shop in Middletown to buy a gun.

He was not able to buy a handgun, but paid for a shotgun, took 3 practice shots, but had no identification to permit them to let him take the gun with him. He said he would be back. He took the box of shells and the target with the 3 holes in it with him. On Friday morning when I went to arrest him since Hershey had no record of giving him any applications, we arrived at his home and found the above items, two pounds of marijuana, and a mirror on the coffee table with cocaine residue. When we went back before the Judge the following week, he told the Judge he was buying the shotgun, since he knew Terry Davis carried a gun and he wanted to even up the arrest. He went to State prison.

He served several years got out on State Parole and I ran into him when I was doing a raid with the State Police. I told him to get out of the projects and not come back for a long time or he might get caught up in what we were doing.

The next time I saw or heard from him, I was subpoenaed to go to Court, where he was now charged with threatening to kill one of our Judges. The subpoena was issued by the Public Defender not the Prosecutor. When I arrived in Court the visiting Judge asked me why I was there? I told him I had no idea, but the Public Defender served it on me. The Judge told me I had about 10 minutes to find out and then come back to the Judges Chambers and meet with him. They brought the client into the Court Room and cleared it except for the few Deputy Sheriffs who said in the room. The client told me he did not trust anyone in the system, except me and would only take advice about what was going to happen was from me.

I went back into the Chambers and told the Judge this and we both shrugged. I told him this guy had bought a shotgun to kill me, told the other judge this, and now only trusts me? The Judge said to me, this goes with your reputation as I know it, and I am only a little surprised to hear this. I suggested an "intermediate punishment" sentence which I had to explain to the Judge how it worked, and he agreed with me.

The client accepted the sentence but within 6 months had violated and was sent to State Prison. I wrote him a letter after he wrote to me telling me he was "LOST" and just did not know where to turn. In my reply I reminded him of what he said to me the very first day I talked to him. He was the very first Black student enrolled in Milton Hershey School. and I could tell he was proud of that. I told him to go back to that day when he got accepted to Milton Hershey and start thereto beginning his development of who he wants to be. I told him to read Mathew 7: 7 from the Bible and use that as a reference.

A few years later he walks into my office and tells me he has been out of prison for about 6 months, he has gotten back with his family, he has found his way, and it was all because of that letter I wrote to him. We talked for a while, and he really did seem to find a new direction. He has since died. He never got in trouble again.

All these cases are people who might have made the change, and most of them took more than 10 years to do it. And yet I cannot guarantee any of them except the last case, who died, will never again do something wrong.

And I would like to see each of the one available go through the legal process that is already in place, The Pennsylvania Board of Pardon's. The Agency in place to deal with these questions.

PART 3: Five points of concern with recommendation.

These are Facts I hope you will consider.

1. Just because someone does not get arrested does not mean they are not involved in criminal activity or have been arrested in other states which have not reported to Pennsylvania because there is no reason to report to us. Therefore, without an investigation, a look into national criminal record checks, a 7 or 10-year slate might look clean here, but not really clean elsewhere.
2. Cleaning a record from offenders because they had not been arrested in 7 or 10 years does not guarantee they will never commit another offense, and that offense might just come back to create problems for elected officials who created the condition of wiping out a prior history of criminal activity.

Someone who has a "clean record" for a period that you want to set for the passing of this law WILL commit another offense after having their record wiped clean. Hopefully, it does not happen, but I almost guarantee it will happen, and then we can only hope it is not a serious offense. Or another McFadden or "Mudman" case.

EXAMPLE:

In the next two examples I am using their real names because they were INFAMOUS, and responsible for a lot of changes in Pennsylvania and are facts that I am only using to make an important point. I would not use a full name in any other example I am going to talk about. If you have been around for years, you probably know about these cases.

Case one: Reginald McFadden who was a convicted murderer serving a life sentence in Pennsylvania until May 1995 when the governor signed a computation of his sentence, and he was released. The Governor was told that McFadden was dying. McFadden then went across the line to New York and 92 days after release he killed 1 man, and 3 elderly women on his killing spree. This was the controversial releasing of people from prison that made National News towards the end of his term in office

Case 2: Robert "Mudman" Simon: A motorcycle gang leader who raped and killed a woman in his gang. He Went to prison, was denied parole 4 times due to his behavior in prison. On May 6, 1995, was granted parole unknowing that a Correctional employee removed all disciplinary reports for that year. Two days later he killed a New Jersey Policeman.

These cases occurred as the Governor's race was ongoing and the news was a major factor in the Governor's race that year.

Even though neither of these men would have qualified for your "Clean Slate" Law, these two cases are cases that someone was told something, and in both cases it was bad information, and 5 innocent people paid with their lives, because someone did not do enough checking to see if they were really a risk. They did not have enough information and what happened was a major blackeye for the leniency action of that time.

For those who think cleaning off a conviction record will keep a person from never committing another crime does not know human nature and decision making by offenders, or offenders who have appeared to be living a clean life for _____ years. I would not bet my professional reputation be used to make this a law, without an investigation into their past 10 years.

3. Wiping an Offenders record clean, does not mean no one knows about his record. Previous criminal justice member who arrested him, supervised him, had him incarcerated in the prison they worked in, Lawyers who represented him or prosecuted him will remember him. neighbors living near him who may have been afraid of him will remember him. victims of his crimes will remember him. newspapers published when he committed his criminal acts will not go away. In other words, wiping his record will only hide it from some people. Those who remember will be the first one to let you know he re-committed another crime after the record has been wiped. That is a fact. The public will not forget, and some will not forgive. And they will let the world know about the new crimes that have been committed. You cannot erase the minds and history of anyone. It just cannot happen. Hiding it from unexpected new contacts, can cause other issues that might be better left to them knowing what they are getting, rather than find it out from

someone later. Would not you want people to know who you are, so that no one ends up being angry about a false image.

4. I can guarantee that there are offenders who are still committing criminal activity but have not been caught yet. There are thousand and thousands of offenders out there that have not been re-arrested but are involved in criminal activity. If you think this is not the case, then I am sorry to break the news, but the Police have not caught every criminal or future criminal, or we would not have any need for a Court system. So, understand having a record or not having a record is not the factor we need to work on to help offenders change their lives.

5. And Lastly, there is a system in place to deal with this objective that takes the pressure off you Legislators trying to fix something that cannot be fixed by a "Clean Slate Law"!

The Pennsylvania Board of Pardons is already in place to look at offenders who have changed their lives and have proven to be of a different character. The difference is the offender must do some work to prove themselves. They must apply. They must be investigated. They must have witnesses and other citizens to vouch for them. They have to have an intense background check done. They have to appear before the Board only after this investigation is completed and plead their case to appointed or elected officials who then can make a positive or negative recommendation to the Governor for granting or denying a Pardon. A clean Slate for that individual and then the Governor has time to evaluate the recommendation before signing it or not. There are some great steps in this system to help anyone trying to clean their record.

True Pardon Board Example:

Back when Mark Singel was Lt. Governor and Ernie Predate was Attorney General, I forget right now who else was on the Pardon board, but I represented one of my ex-clients for a Pardon. Her story is also long, and for the most part her criminal activities that was drugs, prostitution, thefts, and burglary, were serious, all of them were because of her boyfriend "Steamboat." Once I was able to separate the two of them permanently, Linda was successful. There were some other factors, but I went before the Pardon Board, and when Linda's case was called, I was called to the front. Having known at least 4 of the 5 members they asked why I would be there. My reputation was such that they said to me they would have never expected me to be in front of them supporting anyone for a Pardon. However, when I went back and explained the case, she was voted 5 to 0 for a Pardon. She did not get it. and was denied. I believe it was Governor Casey. However, I went with Linda the

following year and this time the Governor signed the Pardon. Linda has to this day never been arrested, and I kept in touch with her up to my retirement from Dauphin County.

Closing comment:

In closing: The A.R.D. law was passed to help offenders with minor charges, and particularly D.U.I. and it has been very helpful for thousands who qualify and do what is requested of them. We have a system in place, The Board of Pardon's that have investigation abilities to check into each one who is requesting their "Slate be wiped Clean", for more serious offenses.

The investigation is the important part of this process. It permits the Board to have information not only from criminal history sources, but to have interviews that give you a more detailed knowledge of the person applying for the "clean slate. To hear from everyone involved, hear from victims, neighbors, the Court, and other interested parties. It has been an amazing process, and my experience with it, the Board was fair, deeply concerned with their decision, and had information before them to assist them in that decision process.

And lastly, an important fact I have learned in all these years, is that we all need to take responsibility for our actions. It is not my fault or your fault that someone makes decisions. Right/wrong, they make the decision and then they must live with it. It goes for everyone of us. Today the public wants to blame the system. And not blame the individual. In working in this system for 50 years, I admit there are flaws, but the underlying solution is the individual MUST begin to make the right decisions. No one should ever take credit for successes of others and never take blame for anyone either. People make their own decisions. And must face the consequences for their actions. Erasing someone's past is not a guarantee that they will be successful, especially if they did not earn that privilege

Erasing Felony convictions with no background check is just plain irresponsible to the law-abiding public, our children, our employers who take a risk no matter who they hire. Let us face it, we never know the person we hire what actions they may take one day later or many years later. The elimination of serious charges in my professional opinion is BAD BUSINESS for you who will take the blame if something bad happens, and for our community.

I took an OATH to uphold the law and to Protect and Serve my community. I took that very seriously and have done just that. I expect my Elected Government Employees to do the same! You took a very similar OATH and protection of the innocent should be the priority. I ask that you do that and begin putting more effort into programs that are in place and that can do pretty much what you want to accomplish. But working to accomplish

something is something to be proud of. When a person does all the work necessary to change their lives, and then does the work to apply for the Pardon, when it happens, the Pride of doing the effort, the work is very satisfying. And the meaning of "cleaning your slave" would have a bigger impact on the individual that might give them the pride to make sure they do not make the same bad decisions as they had done in the past. Just giving away this does not give them the commitment to continue being that good citizen we hope they will be.

And finally, I am not going anywhere. I love what I do and will continue to do more of it. I would welcome anyone from either Chamber to come visit me, talk with me, and see in person, successes without doing anything for them, but teaching them they can do this on their own, They just have to put in the work. Teach, Teach and mor Teaching is what I do, and it works.

Sincerely,

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