



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION



To: All NC House Members

From: The American Conservative Union, Americans for Prosperity, Community Success Initiative, Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform, Forward Justice, NC Justice Center & NC Second Chance Alliance

Re: **What has happened to SB 562 - NC Second Chance Act?**

Date: January 13, 2020

Our country is often called the land of opportunity and second chances. However, for people with a criminal record those opportunities are often out of reach and a second chance does not exist. Limited opportunities for record change and other barriers to reintegration lead to an expensive, revolving-door criminal justice system that undermines public safety and imposes severe and destructive consequences on people with criminal records, their children and families, and all of our communities.

This is why our organizations support the North Carolina Second Chance Act (SB 562) and are extremely concerned that SB 562 has not had a House Floor vote despite passing the Senate unanimously in early May, receiving favorable reports in both House Judiciary and Rules Committees, and being endorsed by a historic array of organizations across the political spectrum. Please the back of this letter for a list of organizations that support SB 562.

If this bill is passed, it will have a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, especially people who are being denied a fair chance at employment, housing, and education based on dismissed charges and nonviolent misdemeanor convictions. This bill would provide a clean slate to people who have been leading law-abiding lives and improve our economy by reducing a major obstacle to finding and keeping a job.

Our organizations believe in second chances. Please do not fail the citizens across North Carolina who are making the right choices every day and striving for greater opportunities. Pass SB 562 – NC Second Chance Act - before the General Assembly adjourns in January 2020. Please see the attached 1-pager for more information on SB 562.

SUPPORTERS OF SB 562/PCS – NC SECOND CHANCE ACT:

- 1. ACLU of North Carolina**
- 2. Advocates for Justice**
- 3. ALEC Action**
- 4. The American Conservative Union**
- 5. Americans for Prosperity**
- 6. Benchmarks**
- 7. Black Workers for Justice**
- 8. Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy**
- 9. Community Success Initiative**
- 10. Concerned Veterans for America**
- 11. Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform**
- 12. Disability Rights North Carolina**
- 13. Faith & Freedom Coalition**
- 14. Forward Justice**
- 15. Freedom Works**
- 16. Mom's Rising**
- 17. National Association of Social Workers – North Carolina Chapter**
- 18. North Carolina Chamber of Commerce**
- 19. North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys**
- 20. North Carolina Justice Center**
- 21. North Carolina NAACP**
- 22. North Carolina Second Chance Alliance**
- 23. Prison Fellowship**
- 24. Right on Crime**
- 25. UE-150**