



March 10, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of S-2711 – The Clean Slate Act

Dear Chairman LaMountain and Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 essential workers across Rhode Island — including healthcare, home care, and child care workers — we write in support of S-2711, the Clean Slate Act.

Many Rhode Islanders who are eligible to have their records expunged never complete the process because it requires navigating a complicated petition system through the courts. For working people — particularly those working long hours, caring for family members, or lacking access to legal assistance — the process can be difficult to understand and complete.

As a result, individuals who are legally eligible for expungement often continue to face barriers to employment, housing, and economic stability simply because the current system requires additional steps that many people cannot realistically navigate.

This issue also has workforce implications.

SEIU 1199NE represents essential workers in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, home care, and child care settings. These sectors depend on a stable workforce, yet employers across Rhode Island continue to struggle to fill critical positions. At the same time, qualified individuals who have turned their lives around remain locked out of employment opportunities because of old records that continue to follow them.

Importantly, the bill maintains protections for positions involving vulnerable populations. The Clean Slate framework includes a trigger so that when a background check is conducted for sensitive positions — such as jobs involving children, elders, or patients — the information will still appear.

This ensures that employers in fields like education and healthcare can still conduct appropriate screening, while allowing individuals who qualify under the law to move forward when seeking employment in other sectors.

By creating an automatic system, S-2711 ensures that individuals who meet the legal requirements under Rhode Island law are not permanently limited by administrative barriers that prevent eligible records from being cleared.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support S-2711.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Moore".

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

amoore@seiu1199ne.org

678-910-3378