

Good morning, and thank you to Chair Baker and Chair Santarsiero for their work and attention in considering House Bill 689 today.

I'd also like to thank my partner in reform, Representative Sheryl Delozier, for her work and diligence toward criminal justice reform.

Five years ago, this legislature worked in a bipartisan fashion to create a first-of-its-kind Clean Slate law meant to give those who had served their time and put themselves on the right track a second chance by sealing certain criminal records.

Since that time, we've sealed over 43 million records helping over 1 million Pennsylvanians. Those people are from all walks of life and all corners of the Commonwealth. What they have in common is that they earned the ability to not be judged by their worst day and get their second chance at an education, at a career, at a family, and so much more.

Not only are we helping our own family, friends, and neighbors, but we made Pennsylvania a trend setter. Since Clean Slate became law here, 12 states¹ have passed their own Clean Slate law and there's currently legislation at the federal level for a national Clean Slate program.

What this legislation you're considering today will do is expand Clean Slate to non-violent felonies, helping more people seal their record and have access to opportunities to better themselves and their families while ensuring our communities are safe.

I sincerely appreciate the Senate Judiciary Committee taking up House Bill 689 and ask for an affirmative vote to move this legislation along to the full Senate for consideration.

¹ <https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/states#states>