



2/25/2019

Dear Lawmaker:

On behalf of thousands of Americans for Prosperity-West Virginia activists, I urge you to support SB 152, extending expungement of certain criminal convictions. **This vote may be recorded in our 2019 session legislative scorecard.**

SB 152, sponsored by Senator Jeffries, would give more West Virginians who have turned their lives around since serving their sentences the chance for a clean slate and the opportunities for success that can provide.

- AFP West Virginia believes that Americans with criminal records are capable of redemption.
- Expungement gives former offenders who have paid their debt to society and remained crime-free a fairer shot at being able to productively contribute to their communities after release.
- SB 152 still excludes more dangerous offenses and keeps law enforcement and any victims notified of and able to oppose petitions if they wish.
- Improving access to jobs and housing for former offenders, extending expungement eligibility to more people can help reduce recidivism and keep our communities safer.

While AFP-WV supports SB 152's important reforms, we believe that **the bill would be improved by removing the language adding an additional expungement fee on top of the \$200 applicants will already have to pay the court.** Many former offenders who would benefit most from the opportunities expungement provides are also the least able to pay for expensive petition fees, which should be sufficient at their current rate to cover administrative costs.

For these reasons, I ask you to **vote yes in support of SB 152**, and adopt the recommended changes to make the bill as strong as possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Huffman
West Virginia State Director

Americans for Prosperity