



Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2132 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member, House Judiciary
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2056 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Nadler and Jordan,

On behalf of the millions of activists we support at Americans for Prosperity, **we write to express support for H.R. 5455** (Terry Technical Correction Act), **H.R. 2864** (Clean Slate Act), **and H.R. 5651** (Fresh Start Act). These bills are commonsense reforms that will help many Americans move out from under the shadow of a single past mistake and achieve a true second chance.

The **Terry Technical Correction Act** is a necessary clarification from Congress regarding the First Step Act's provisions allowing some individuals an opportunity to secure a new sentencing hearing in front of a judge. In *Terry v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that those convicted of the *lowest* level crack offenses were *not* allowed to ask a court for such a hearing based on the plain text of the Act.¹ This bill will merely ensure that these individuals have an equal opportunity to petition a court for discretionary sentence reductions as those convicted of more serious offenses.

The **Clean Slate Act** and **Fresh Start Act** are both vital reforms that seek to improve second chances by incentivizing individuals exiting our justice system to become productive citizens in their communities and avoid future criminal behavior. The unnecessary barriers posed by criminal records are costing our economy hundreds of billions of dollars each year. This is limiting our country's economic growth at a time when we need it the most in the face of rising inflation and concerns about an economic recession.

We urge you and the members of the House Judiciary Committee to **support H.R. 5455, H.R. 2864, and H.R. 5651** and advance these bills to a full House floor vote.

Brent Wm. Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

¹ Americans for Prosperity Foundation submitted an amicus brief in the *Terry* case. It is available at <https://americansforprosperity.org/amicus-briefs/>.