



# Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

640 Johnson Avenue, Suite 8, Bohemia, New York 11716-2624  
631-567-5111 ~ info@LIFairHousing.org ~ www.LIFairHousing.org  
*Protecting Civil Rights for Long Islanders since 1969*

Long Island  
celebrates the



50th Anniversary  
of the  
Fair Housing Act

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## Memorandum of Support for the Clean Slate Act S.211 (Myrie) / A.1029 (Cruz)

Long Island Fair Housing Services strongly supports the immediate passage of [S.211](#) (Myrie) / [A.1029](#) (Cruz).

Long Island Housing Service focus on fair housing was established in 1969. LIHS' mission is the elimination of housing discrimination and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.

The Clean Slate Act will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Under our current system, people who have successfully served their time are [subjected to perpetual punishment](#) long after their sentence is served. Doors that were once open – to jobs, a place to live, an education – can remain closed for a lifetime, and this impact reverberates across children, families, and whole communities, [disproportionately](#) impacting Black and brown New Yorkers and deepening already-existing inequalities in civic life.

New York can change this. We urge the legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act (S.211/A.1029), a common-sense bill that would create opportunities for New Yorkers in every corner of the state. A [recent study](#) found New York loses an estimated \$7.1 billion in wages because of unemployment and underemployment among people with old conviction records. By expanding opportunity, Clean Slate will boost economic growth, expand the state's workforce, and help businesses hire employees, while increasing community safety and tackling long-standing racial inequities in our criminal legal system. Within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, [research showed](#) people were 11% more likely to have a job, were earning 22% more, and were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime. By helping to ensure that all New Yorkers can access stable employment and housing, Clean Slate will revitalize our communities, which are safest when individuals have what they need to thrive.

Clean Slate is also crucial to address intergenerational poverty. [Nearly 50% of children](#) have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.

Under the Clean Slate Act, records would be sealed automatically after three years for misdemeanors and seven years for felonies not including time incarcerated, once someone is not on community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions. Sealed records would still be accessible to law enforcement and for employment with vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Sex offenses are not eligible for sealing.

**We urge the Legislature to immediately pass [S.211](#) (Myrie) / [A.1029](#) (Cruz).** Any questions can be directed to [insert organizational point of contact].

*Our mission is the elimination of unlawful housing discrimination  
and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.*