



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110
Implementation

From: Paul Solomon, executive director, Sponsors

Date: February 2, 2022

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1512

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,
Sponsors urges your support for Senate Bill 1512, which will build on work done in 2021 to modernize Oregon's laws on how criminal records can be used in employment decisions.

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

At Sponsors, we have learned through firsthand experiences, which has been repeatedly supported by data-driven research, that the negative impacts of a conviction do not end when a person has completed their sentence. Local, state, and federal statutes and regulations can make it all but impossible for some people with criminal records to truly begin rebuilding their lives. These consequences can affect everything from employment to voting eligibility, public benefit eligibility, and access to public and private housing.

While the true impact of existing laws is has yet to be calculated, we know with certainty that it is profound. Unfortunately in Oregon, despite Fair Chance Licensing laws, Oregonians can be denied licensure in many professions because of their criminal records.

Senate Bill 1512 makes simple but meaningful changes to our current statute. Of note, SB 1512 will:

- Repeal broad authorization for all licensing bodies to consider criminal history;
- Ensure that those licensing bodies authorized to consider criminal history do so in accordance with consistent standards.
- Prohibit disqualification absent a direct relationship between the crime and licensed activity.

SB 1512 restricts consideration of criminal convictions to deny, suspend or revoke an occupational or professional license unless the conviction is substantially related to the duties of the occupation or profession. Through this meaningful reform, we can make employment, and thereby the opportunity for lifelong success, more accessible to Oregonians with conviction histories who are seeking a more hopeful path as contributing members of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support of SB 1512

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.

Paul Solomon
Executive Director, Sponsors Inc.