



# **Jobs NOT Jails Coalition**

## **Increase Workforce Participation, Re-entry Success and Court Efficiency**

Enactment of CORI reform in 2010 made progress toward ensuring that who have paid the price of involvement with the criminal justice system have a fair opportunity to re-enter society unburdened by their criminal histories.

However, more needs to be done to complete the task of CORI reform, for the benefit not only of the ex-prisoners and their families, but also for our communities:

1. We should change the definition of CORI to exclude cases dismissed before arraignment and certain juvenile youthful offender adjudications that now appear on CORI reports.
2. We should de-criminalize minor offenses such as driving with suspended license or compulsory insurance violations which take up court time and are routinely dismissed after hearings and payment of fines.
3. We should reduce long 5 and 10 year waiting periods for sealing records to 3 and 7 years which is consistent with recidivism studies and will get people back to work and in housing.
4. We should permit a person whose CORI record has been sealed to say “I have no record” when applying for housing and occupational licenses after records are sealed—not just when applying for jobs as is currently the case.
5. We should change the law regarding convictions that can never be sealed to exclude the crime of resisting arrest, which is charged very routinely.
6. We should require the Probation Department to establish a system for easy correction of CORI database errors.
7. We should require prisons and Houses of Correction to provide information upon admission to the facility to help prisoners avoid the accumulation of massive child support debts, which can impede their successful re-entry.