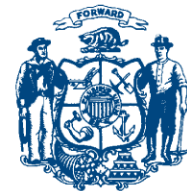




STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



July 23, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Thank you for your service to our country.

I am writing to request that your administration develop and issue an Executive Order to Ban the Box at the federal level and extend this Order to federal contractors. As you know, many communities throughout the country, including Milwaukee where I represent a portion of the City in the Wisconsin State Assembly, have a disproportionate number of individuals seeking employment who have been formerly incarcerated at some point in their lives. Many of these individuals have been rehabilitated and seek to be productive and active members of their community. They now seek to pursue life and their dreams just as you and I do.

Throughout my tenure in the Wisconsin State Assembly I have been dedicated to pursuing policies related to criminal justice reform. The research conducted related to this issue clearly shows that employment and a steady job reduces the recidivism rate and provides individuals with a criminal record an important step in beginning anew. These individuals are our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and our family members. We all know or have interacted with an individual like this at some point in our lives.

This issue has gained traction in recent years and is becoming more bi-partisan as time goes on. Even here in Wisconsin I am seeing a shift among my Republican colleagues on issues of criminal justice reform compared to last session. Most recently, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, a Republican, signed an executive order that prohibited state agencies from asking about criminal history in initial employment applications.

According to information provided to me here at the State Capitol, at least 60 counties and cities have adopted Ban the Box ordinances. These local efforts are changing lives. No one speaks about those who never return to prison, the 300,000 people each year who never commit another crime, and the determination those men and women have to stay out of prison and do what it takes to reintegrate back into their communities. They need our help as they struggle to overcome the barriers placed in their path. I strongly urge you to issue this Executive Order before the end of your administration.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your staff about this critical issue. I also extend an invitation for you to visit the 18th Assembly District. My community would love the opportunity to show you the great work and progress happening in Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Goyke", written over a horizontal line.

State Representative Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District