

# PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT ACT

## ABX / SBX - EXPUNGEMENT REFORM

**Expungement** is the legal process in Wisconsin that allows youthful, low level and non-violent criminal offenses to be removed or "expunged" from the record. Currently the decision must be made "at the time of sentencing" and is only eligible for people 25 and under. This outdated process results in fewer individuals receiving relief.

### This bill changes the ways that courts process and grant expungement by:

- Allowing an individual to seek expungement after completing his or her sentence
- Giving clarity to employers and employees for expunged records
- Removing the age 25 limitation
- Applying these changes retroactively, giving relief for outdated criminal convictions
- Maintaining crimes eligible as low-level and nonviolent only

Wisconsin is the only state that requires the decision "at the time of sentencing"

1

Wisconsin is one of only

7

states that have an age restriction on crimes eligible for expungement<sup>1</sup>

100s

of professions are barred for individuals with criminal records<sup>2</sup>

1. Americans for Prosperity Press Release, 1/29/19

2. The American Bar Association sponsors the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction

## Strong Bi-Partisan Support for Expungement Reform

30 REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES 24

8 REPUBLICAN SENATORS

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS 9

**A MAJORITY OF LEGISLATORS IN EACH HOUSE SUPPORT THIS REFORM**

- National Federation of Independent Business
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
- Wisconsin Independent Businesses
- Wisconsin Small Businesses United
- Americans for Prosperity
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Clean Slate Milwaukee
- Fresh Start Coalition
- More Community Partners TBD



### Representative Evan Goyke (D-18)

is a graduate of Marquette Law School and a former public defender, where he frequently argued for expungement for his clients. He lives on Milwaukee's near west side with his wife, Gaby.

