



SENATOR LENA TAYLOR

a Champion for...

www.LenaTaylor.org

Justice

Lena's Second Chance Bills

Ban the Box

Getting rid of the "box" that asks job applicants to disclose whether or not they've been convicted of a felony has been a top priority of Lena. It has been proven that banning the box increases the productivity of private businesses, and helps retain well-qualified employees. Lena believes that ex-convicts who have served their time should not be punished further by having their opportunities for employment obstructed. So far, Lena's efforts have succeeded in banning the box for state employees and employees of businesses that contract with the state. ([2013 SB 257](#))

Certificate of Qualified Employment

Lena has sponsored efforts to allow ex-convicts to receive certificates of qualified employment from their parole commission. Many ex-convicts are currently excluded from a whole array of job opportunities, but this legislation would give them the chance they deserve. ([2015 SB 482](#))

Limits on Crimeless Revocations

Lena has sponsored a bill that would set a limit on the number of revocations that can be ordered per year for violations of parole that aren't crimes. ([2015 AB 309](#))

DNA Expungement

Lena's bill would mandate the expungement of the DNA records of a person who is found not guilty or delinquent of a crime. If an accused person is found not guilty, Lena believes that every effort must be made to ensure that said person can return to normal life as quickly and as easily as possible. ([2015 SB 398](#))

Revocation by Poverty

This bill is aimed at providing our parolees with the opportunity to stay out of prison as they attempt to re-enter the working world. Parolees are often revoked just because of a failure to pay a supervision or restitution fee. We need to be more proactive in making the re-entry process less of a vicious cycle, and more of a navigable road. ([2015 SB 680](#))

*"To err is human,
to forgive is divine."*

--- Senator Lena Taylor



Lena has consistently advocated for the rights of inmates and ex-convicts through the numerous bills she has proposed to reduce recidivism. Click here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9lappUaKeU>) to view the Senator's comments on the success of "Ban the Box" in the state of Wisconsin.

Removing Acquittals from CCAP

Lena wrote a bill that would remove any information regarding an acquittal, dismissed charges, or criminal convictions if an accused person was pardoned from CCAP. If it exists on a person's record, this information can often be inappropriately used for housing and hiring discrimination. ([2015 SB 680](#))

Independent Pardon Council

Since Governor Walker has so clearly

demonstrated his unwillingness to perform his duty in considering pardons, Lena has proposed setting up an independent pardon commission of nine judges to consider each pardon application. Lena believes that we need to give Wisconsin residents a chance to be heard, and we're not going to pardon the Governor for his failure to listen. ([2015 SB 729](#))

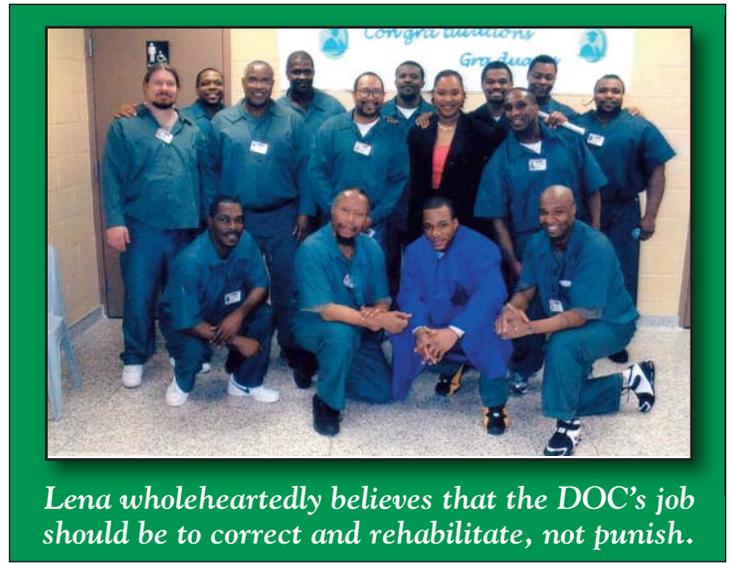
State of the Justice System Tour

While chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Corrections, Lena and her colleagues on the committee travelled across the state to host public hearings and listen to those on the frontline of our justice system. Incarcerated residents, wardens, judges, concerned family members, probation officers and more shared what was working and what wasn't so that the Committee on Judiciary and Corrections could focus their efforts on the needs of those in the justice system. Since the tour, Lena has been working to address the issues brought up in these hearings, including introducing bills on victim's rights, DNA expungement, voting rights restoration, and banning the box. Receiving feedback from those whose lives are directly impacted by the justice system is still Lena's priority. Lena continues to seek out those whose voices are often not heard, like when she held listening sessions at Lincoln Hills last winter.

State of the Justice System: Public Hearing (YouTube Video) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-g14gZwbWI>

Lena's Justice Reinvestment bills

In response to the State of the Justice System Tour, Lena chaired the Special Committee on Justice Reinvestment Initiative Oversight. This Special Committee resulted in many recommendations that turned into bills during the 2009 legislative session, and that have helped shape legislation to this day. The following bills came out of this Special Committee and responded to the issues from the Council of State Governments Justice Center as well as those brought up during the State of the Justice System Tour. The Special Committee created direct access from those on the front lines of the Justice System to new legislation.



Lena wholeheartedly believes that the DOC's job should be to correct and rehabilitate, not punish.

Maximum Term of Extended Supervision

Lena introduced a bill keeping extended supervision periods for a person below 75% of the time they are confined in prison. ([2009 SB 315](#))

Time Spent in Prison After Revocation Parole or Extended Supervision

Lena responded to a request from the Justice Center to apply a six-month period of reconfinement or the remainder of parole time (whichever is less) when a person's extended supervision or parole is revoked. If a certain rule violation occurs, the person could be held for up to an additional ninety days. ([2009 SB 316](#))

Community Supervision Services in DOC

On the recommendation from the Justice Center, Lena introduced a bill to help Wisconsin reinvest corrections spending to help reduce recidivism. The bill allocated funding to services for people with severe mental impairments and for a transitional employment programs for those who are unemployed on parole or extended supervision. ([2009 SB 317](#))

Risk Reduction Programming

Lena introduced a bill to reduce the term for people who show that their risk to society is reduced. If a person has been participating in programs and treatment prior to release, they will be released after 75% of their confinement time. ([2009 SB 318](#))

Experienced Leader who fights for Second Chances

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