

Senator Moore and Representative Filipe,

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 5242.

HB 5242, in essence, establishes a protected class for convicted criminals, making it discriminatory for housing providers to reject applicants for certain criminal histories. Considering that the Clean Slate Law only recently went into effect in January 2024, we have not had sufficient time to gather data on its impact to the housing industry.

The potential consequences are concerning. Jurisdictions like D.C. that have enacted similar measures have seen large rent increases since 2016. Moreover, HB 5242 is likely to drive up insurance premiums, already at unsustainable levels, further aggravating our housing affordability crisis.

Rather than imposing restrictions on the private sector, I urge you to allocate funding for transitional and supportive housing programs for individuals reintegrating into society. HB 5242 fails to address our housing supply crisis and does not contribute to resolving the 90,000-apartment unit deficit. I encourage you to focus on streamlining the permitting process for multifamily development, making it more efficient. Additionally, consider implementing tax incentives, drawing inspiration from Florida's successful "Live Local Act," to spur the construction of more affordable housing developments.

Let us collectively work towards creating a solution that prioritizes public safety while simultaneously addressing the pressing need for increased housing availability.

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Franklin Communities

