

Sample Phone and Email Scripts

I am _____, a constituent who works/lives in your district. The strength of Wisconsin's economy is deeply important to me, and we need common sense reforms to our criminal justice system to sustain our recent economic success.

The fuel for Wisconsin's economy is a dependable labor pool. With a combination of record-low unemployment and an aging workforce, Wisconsin must maximize all sources of human capital. This includes groups that are underemployed, such as jobseekers with nonviolent criminal records. A 2015 report by the Public Policy Forum found that nearly 1.4 million adults in Wisconsin have a criminal record, including 42% of Milwaukee's job seekers.

A recent study by the Wisconsin Policy Forum finds that Wisconsin's system for expungement is out of step with national practices. Did you know that Wisconsin is the only state that decides if a sentence can be expunged before it starts? Or one of the only states that doesn't expunge non-acquittals? Reforming Wisconsin's expungement laws would reduce a common employment barrier among our dwindling pool of jobseekers.

Wisconsin's employers and pro-business groups like the Badger Institute and Americans For Prosperity recognize that criminal justice reforms can dramatically improve the labor market and reduce taxpayer dollars spent on criminal justice and social services, while also helping ex-offenders become functioning members of society.

I urge you to help grow our economy by supporting Assembly Bill 33 / Senate Bill 39.

Thank you.

I am _____, a constituent who works/lives in your district. It is deeply important to me that all of Wisconsin residents have equal opportunities to earn a family sustaining wage. This is why I support common sense reforms that will remove employment barriers for thousands of jobseekers with nonviolent criminal records.

A 2015 report by the Public Policy Forum found that nearly 1.4 million adults in Wisconsin have a criminal record, including 42% of Milwaukee's job seekers. Black men in Milwaukee are incarcerated at the highest rate in the nation. This helps to explain why African American unemployment in the Milwaukee region is **13.8%**, compared to 2.7% for whites. This is the largest gap of any American metropolitan area.

People with criminal records often face punishment well after they've served their time – obstacles that prevent them from getting a job, buying a home, joining the military or going to college. Expungement of criminal records is a useful strategy to help these people and their families move forward, but Wisconsin's system needs to be improved.

A recent study by the Wisconsin Policy Forum found that Wisconsin's system for expungement is out of step with national practices. Did you know that Wisconsin is the only state that decides if a sentence can be expunged before it starts? Or one of a couple states that doesn't expunge non-acquittals? Reforming Wisconsin's expungement laws will help more people would reduce a common employment barrier

I urge you to help create opportunity in our economy by supporting Assembly Bill 33 / Senate Bill 39.

Thank you,