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FOUNDATION**

PARTNERSHIP ASSISTING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

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**PACT**  
PROJECT



# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Get Cleared Illinois: The Campaign to Break the Generational Cycle of Recidivism**

**[www.GetClearedToday.org](http://www.GetClearedToday.org)**



**Mobilizing a Victory for "Systems Change: HB 2500 Petition Challenge Reduction Bill sponsored by 7th District State Representative Chris Welch, Vote out of Judiciary - Criminal Justice Committee - Headed to House Floor.**

**On Tuesday, March 12th, representatives of Get Cleared Illinois, a public policy and community organizing campaign of the Monroe Foundation that is focusing on advocating structural changes to policies and laws that are barriers to re-entry, testified on the importance of HB 2500, a Bill prepared by the coalition and sponsored by 7th District State Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch, (D. Hillside), was voted of committee and is headed to the Illinois House Floor.**

**While preparing for House debate in the coming weeks, the coalition will soon meet with the Directors of the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Sherrifs Association, and the Cook County State's Attorney, law enforcement agencies that have filed an objection, to discuss strategies that can be implemented administratively and legislatively to make re-entry through sealing and expungement more real for the formerly incarcerated eligible to file after three years.**

**Reverend Otis C. Monroe, III, CEO of the Monroe Foundation, convening partner of Get Cleared, Illinois, stated, "Today was a significant step toward the systems change we are seeking that will gradually remove the structural barriers to getting cleared, and the inequities of legal access."**

**Traveling to Springfield to advocate for the Bill included: Teamwork Englewood and the North Lawdale Employment Network. Other advocates that filed "witness slips" of support include: Rev. Anibal Vega, Center for Community Development Initiatives, Activist Robert Douglas, Gloria Smith, executive director, the Black Star Project.**

**Get Cleared Illinois is supported by grants from the Chicago Community Trust, the Field Foundation of Illinois, workforce development from PNC Bank and US Bank.**

**For more information or to make a contribution to Get Cleared Illinois contact Rev. Otis Monroe, 773-315-9720.**