

Amber, thank you for your hard work coordinating our testimony yesterday and I hope my presence was helpful for the Committee. I'm writing today to pass along a few additional items, responsive to members' questions from yesterday.

- First, in one of my last comments I noted that recidivism plateaus early, such that people who have *not* committed a new crime after five or so years post-release are statistically, relatively unlikely to do so again. That information comes from a Bureau of Justice Statistics study that followed people for ten years post-release; you can find it [here](#). The rates of recidivism in this study will appear high; that is because they are re-arrest rates, which may reflect patterns of over-policing. Re-conviction rates tend to be lower. (For more on the difficulty of studying recidivism, Committee members may find [this Marshall Project article](#) helpful.)
- Second, the Brennan Center report containing our findings on how criminal records contribute to poverty and economic inequality, at the personal and state level, can be found [here](#).
- And lastly, I'm attaching two important studies:
 - A recent paper by a team of sociologists, showing that as the share of a state's workforce with felony records increases, the non-employment rate also rises. As the authors put it, "the stigma of a felony record may play an important part in aggregate employment rates as well as in individual hiring practices."
 - And, a study of how petition-based systems for ensuring "second chances" (including but not limited to sealing laws) can fall short. This underscores the case for automated, clean-slate record laws that I shared with the Committee.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do let me know if I can answer any additional questions or provide further information. Thank you again to you and the Committee for including myself and the Brennan Center.

Very best,

Ames