



*The Honourable Kim Pate, C.M. | L'honorable Kim Pate, C.M.
Senator for Ontario | Sénatrice pour l'Ontario*

News Release

They've Done Their Time; Let Them Move on from Crime: Senator Pate Speaks to Criminal Record Expiry Bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, MARCH 20, 2018—Senator Pate spoke last night in the Senate Chamber as sponsor of [Bill S-258](#), *An Act to amend the Criminal Records Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, emphasizing the need to look beyond “tough on crime” rhetoric and focus on empirical evidence about what actually increases public safety.

Bill S-258 provides for expiry of criminal records following a certain amount of time with no subsequent convictions or pending charges, without need for an application. Desistance research makes clear that after a relatively small number of crime-free years, those with a past conviction pose no greater risk to public safety than those who have never been criminalized. The passage of this time is something that can be measured without a complex and onerous application process.

The cost savings associated with removing complex and onerous application and review requirements would be used to eliminate the \$631 application fee that has reduced access to the current process [by about 40%](#).

“Those previously convicted of criminal offences are most likely to remain crime-free if they have a place to live, a community of support, the means to support themselves and something meaningful to do, whether educational, waged or not,” said Senator Pate. “Leaving people without a reprieve from a criminal record, we do nothing to increase public safety and instead contribute to the continuous interference with people’s efforts to fully integrate and contribute to their communities. We need to stop the never-ending punishment of those who have long since been held accountable.”

Please consult the attached backgrounder for additional information regarding the bill.

Text of Senator Pate’s speech:

https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/debates/271db_2019-03-19-e?language=e#66

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