



Bradford R. Turner
Chief Legal and Administrative Officer

June 24, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Speaker David Ralston, Chairman Trey Kelley, and Representative Houston Gaines:

Newell Brands Inc. joins the Metro Atlanta Chamber in supporting Senate Bill 288. This bill would provide for restriction and sealing of certain misdemeanor convictions from an individual's official Georgia criminal history if they have remained crime-free for a period of time and would allow an individual who has received a pardon for certain felony offenses to petition a court to restrict and seal their record.

Due to Georgia's current narrow expungement law, even minor misdemeanor convictions and pardoned offenses can impose lifetime barriers to quality employment, housing, and education, long after an individual has completed a sentence and demonstrated rehabilitation. The current law prevents a significant portion of our population from becoming positive contributors to our state. By expanding opportunities for certain individuals to have their records restricted, SB 288 will reduce barriers to employment and create economic opportunity for countless Georgians currently being left behind.

Because this bill also provides liability protection, it will facilitate companies' hiring returning citizens and will remove barriers for a large number of Georgians who want to progress in their careers, provide better futures for their families, and contribute to their communities. In addition, expanding record restriction will save employers significant time and money in the screening process of applicants, by removing conviction information that is not relevant to the hiring process.

We urge the House to pass and Governor Kemp to sign SB 288 as it will bolster Georgia's reputation as a great place to do business and help us continue to attract and retain employers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradford R. Turner", written in a cursive style.

Bradford R. Turner
Chief Legal & Administrative Officer