



# BOSTON WORKERS ALLIANCE

**FIGHT FOR CORI REFORM AND JOBS!**

## ***CORI FACT SHEET***

CORI STANDS FOR THE CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION. IT IS A STATEWIDE DATABASE THAT RECORDS OUR CONTACT WITH THE COURT SYSTEM.

WHEN THE CORI SYSTEM WAS CREATED IN THE 70'S, MOSTLY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WERE ALLOWED TO SEE THIS SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

THE CORI INCLUDES CRIMINAL CASES THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND NOT GUILTY, WITHOUT FINDING OR DISMISSED.

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***TODAY, THERE ARE OVER 2.3 MILLION CORI PROFILES KEPT IN MASSACHUSETTS.<sup>1</sup>***

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IN 1994, 1 OUT OF 5 EMPLOYERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY USED CRIMINAL RECORDS TO SCREEN POTENTIAL JOB SEEKERS. BY 2004, 4 OUT OF 5 EMPLOYERS CHECKED FOR RECORDS IN APPLICATIONS.<sup>2</sup>

CORIS ARE USED TO FIRE WORKERS, EVEN THOSE EMPLOYED AT A BUSINESS FOR MANY YEARS.

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<sup>1</sup> MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE TO REFORM CORI (MARC)

<sup>2</sup> EX-PRISONERS AND PRISONERS ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT (EPOCA)

TODAY IN MASSACHUSETTS, 10,000 ORGANIZATIONS CAN ACCESS THE CORI. LAST YEAR, 1.4 MILLION PROFILES WERE GIVEN OUT.<sup>3</sup>

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***IN MASSACHUSETTS, CORI IS USED TO DENY PEOPLE JOBS, PUBLIC HOUSING, CREDIT & STUDENT LOANS.***

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MANY BUSINESSES WILL NOT HIRE ANYONE WITH A CORI, REGARDLESS OF THEIR QUALIFICATIONS OR COMMITMENT.

CORIS FROM FELONY CONVICTIONS ARE OPEN FOR AT LEAST 15 YEARS; MISDEMEANORS ARE FOR 10 YRS.<sup>4</sup>

FOR ENTRY-LEVEL APPLICANTS, BLACKS WITH RECORDS HAVE A 5% CHANCE OF BEING CALLED BACK FOR INTERVIEWS. BLACKS WITHOUT RECORDS HAVE A 14% CHANCE. WHITES WITH RECORDS HAVE 17% CHANCE, AND WHITES WITHOUT RECORDS HAVE 34% CHANCE.<sup>5</sup>

IN 2006, RESIDENTS FROM ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS ARE CALLING TO END CORI DISCRIMINATION.

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<sup>3</sup> MASSACHUSETTS LAW REFORM INSTITUTE

<sup>4</sup> CRIMINAL HISTORY SYSTEMS BOARD

<sup>5</sup> PAGER, DEVAH. *MARK OF A CRIMINAL RECORD*; (2002)