



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, April 13, 2015

Contact:

Armando Chapelliquen

973-934-8485

achapelliquen@nypirg.org

NEWS RELEASE

NYPIRG Applauds Agreement on Credit Checks Ban for Employment Students commend City Hall on ending discriminatory practice

(New York, NY) – New York City job seekers and workers will no longer have their credit histories used against them under legislation likely to pass the city Council this week. With over 40 councilmember sponsors and the Public Advocate in strong support, the *Stop Credit Discrimination in Employment Act* will ban the use of credit information for hiring, firing, disciplinary proceedings and promotions—eliminating the use of a reports widely viewed as discriminatory and without independent validation.

“The agreement reached to pass Intro 261 will ensure that students and New Yorkers as a whole are not discriminated against because of their poor or lack of credit history,” stated Aileen Sheil, Queens College student and NYPIRG chairperson. “With students grappling with the rising cost of higher education, we applaud City Hall’s action to lead the nation on this civil rights issue and remove unjustified barriers to employment.”

While similar laws have been passed in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington, New York City’s credit checks bill does not fall victim to the broad exemptions or loopholes that have undermined efforts to ban employment credit checks elsewhere. The exemptions that have been included in the final bill are subject to review and a report to be completed by the City’s Commission on Human Rights.

“It’s an accountability measure,” commented Armando Chapelliquen, NYPIRG Campaign Organizer and member of the NYC Coalition to Stop Credit Checks in Employment. “This is the strongest bill in the country, without a doubt, and the Commission on Human Rights’ report may give us an opportunity to make the bill’s protections even better down the road.”

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