BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Alfred Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 837 by Representative Edward Price

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 837 would allow offenders convicted of violent crimes such as Aggravated Battery, Second Degree Battery, Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Criminal Damage to Property, Simple Robbery, Purse Snatching, and Illegal Use of Weapons or Dangerous Instrumentalities to have these convictions permanently expunged from their criminal record.

Last year, I signed HB 55 by Representative Lopinto, which significantly expanded access to expungements for a broad range of non-violent, non-sexual felony and misdemeanor convictions. However, expanding access to expungements to include violent crimes is a step too far and creates a potential public safety risk to prospective employers, landlords, and various licensing boards that rely on accurate and complete criminal background information in order to make informed decisions. The potential to expand employment opportunities for ex-offenders is far outweighed by the need to have appropriate access to violent criminal histories.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 837 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

RECEIVED
JUN 19 2015
House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

cc: Honorable Glenn Koepp