



## Handcuff Headlines

December 2009

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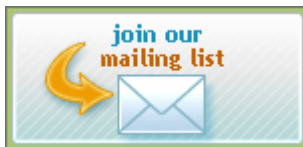
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Dear Jeff,

With 2009 just about over, it's time to focus on year end activities. If you need to run your drivers or other employees through some updated background checks, you're in luck. KRESS offers volume discounts, easy ordering solutions and options for employee data management. We can make that process easy, inexpensive and quick.

### → Texas Dept. of Public Safety Missing Almost 30% of Criminal Data

The Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Records Service (DPS) released a report to the 81st Texas Legislature this year in which they indicated that in 2007 (the most recent year available) their records only included 71% of case disposition information for all reported arrest data. The disposition information in layman's terms is the conviction information. The result is that the thousands of employers, volunteer organizations and citizens who rely on this information are missing almost 30% of the necessary conviction information. The public access DPS system only provides conviction information; no arrest or non-conviction information is available through their system to the general public. The DPS suggest that under reporting counties and law enforcement entities establish Local Data Advisory Boards to assist in gathering this information.

How many employers are running criminal database searches for applicants assuming that they're getting a quality search? If they're KRESS clients, they're probably running the Essential Package and getting county, state, federal and sex offender registry searches in one package.

### → Bill in Congress to End the Use of Credit Reports for Employment Background Checks

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09) unveiled legislation which he authored aimed at helping those with poor credit histories improve their job opportunities by



prohibiting the use of credit checks in the hiring process.

Congressman Luis Gutierrez, (D-IL) chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, joined Congressman Cohen in introducing HR 3149, The Equal Employment For All Act. This bill would give some of the most vulnerable, "credit challenged" citizens - students, recent college graduates, low-income families, senior citizens, and minorities - the opportunity to begin rebuilding their credit history by obtaining a job.

The trend to prohibit the use of credit reports by employers is growing. Currently Washington State, Connecticut and Hawaii had passed laws that regulate the use of credit checks in the hiring process.

Finally, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe. Be happy. And enjoy being with the people you love this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rackler  
Kress Employment Screening

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