



August 22, 2022

Clerk of Supreme Court  
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules  
P.O. Box 1688  
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 22-03 Eviction Record Retention

Dear Honorable Justices,

I am writing on behalf of the Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County in support of Petition 22-03 related to reducing the length of time eviction records are held. As an organization, our vision is that all persons should have the opportunity to secure and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing. We believe that housing is a human right. We believe reducing the harm of eviction, while allowing rental properties to run effectively, is vital to the stabilization and dignity of our communities. We believe this Petition takes a step in that direction.

We know that a major barrier to finding housing is eviction records. Many times property owners do not have the time to examine the details of an eviction case and the outcome so will deny households for having an eviction filed. This barrier can lead to households experiencing homelessness and/or lengthen the amount of time they experience homelessness creating unnecessary trauma.

On August 16, 2022, Dane County had 87 households with children and 650 single adults on the Coordinated Entry priority list. This is a list of households experiencing homelessness who have been assessed and are in need of a housing program. Of those on the list, 20 households with children and 305 single adults are identified as experiencing chronic homelessness<sup>1</sup>. Households in Dane County spend, on average, 109 nights experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters and transitional housing (FY21 System Performance Measures). This number does not account for nights spent self-paying in hotels, staying doubled-up with family/friends or sleeping unsheltered.

The impact of evictions on our community is devastating. People experiencing a loss of housing will struggle to get to work and kids will struggle to get to school. Once at their place of employment or

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Housing and Urban Development classifies someone as experiencing chronic homelessness who is "a homeless individual with a disability who lives either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 12 months, or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months."

education, it is near impossible to concentrate due to the trauma of their housing loss and their need to locate new housing. When evictions occur, people lose connection to their neighborhoods and local support/services. Neighborhoods suffer the loss of the family leaving due to eviction. Communities and neighborhoods are stronger when people can secure and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing

Therefore, we urge you to adopt Petition 22-03 to reduce the harm of eviction records by reducing the length of time they are held. Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

**Brenda K. Konkel**

Brenda K. Konkel  
President  
Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors