

August 24, 2022

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

FILED

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**CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN**

RE: Petition 22-03 Eviction Record Retention

Dear Honorable Justices,

I am writing in support of Petition 22-03 related to reducing the length of time eviction records are held. I am a resident of Dane County, and while I've not received an eviction, I fear the impact of evictions and eviction records.

Graduating from UW-Madison in May of 2020 did not leave much for financial prosperity with the COVID-19 pandemic. The job I had lined up after graduation had a hiring freeze, resulting with me deciding to serve as a year with AmeriCorps. In an old apartment with a roommate, I was living stipend to stipend even with the savings I had built up working multiple jobs during college. In my 7 years living in Madison, I've had to always live with other people to be able to afford housing; I've moved 7 times with anywhere from 1 to 6 other housemates to afford to live. One of my roommates in the search for housing had a fair credit score and even with me having a good credit score, we could not secure the apartment.

Now, I recognize I also pay more than I used to for rent in an older apartment without amenities. This prevents me from building up savings, so I am in constant fear that I will not be able to afford rent the next month. Especially with the threat of evictions being so damaging and long lasting, I would not be able to find housing.

In my experience, we have housing in my community, but it is not accessible or affordable housing. To me, this means that the risk of eviction is higher, meaning more people are likely to be impacted by long eviction records. There are many other factors that go into securing affordable and safe housing including credit score, income verification, and evictions. Removing one of these barriers could make it easier for individuals to find a place to live. Therefore, I 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 me with the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

Sincerely,


Tijana Sagorac Gruichich
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