



Madison Street Medicine formerly known as
Madison Area Care for the Homeless (MACH) OneHealth
520 University Avenue, Suite 155
Madison, WI 53703

August 24, 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 Madison Street Medicine dba MACH OneHealth in support of Petition 22-03 related to reducing the length of time eviction records are held. We are on a mission to develop programming and services to fill gaps in access to healthcare and housing in the Madison Area; we envision a community where individuals experiencing housing insecurity have equitable housing and healthcare. We believe in a housing first model, which according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness "is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life." In a housing first model, housing is healthcare.

Removing evictions would further allow client choice in spaces to live as many landlords do not rent to individuals with records of evictions. We see in our day-to-day work that many of our clients cannot secure housing due to records of evictions. Without access to safe, affordable housing, our clients continue to cycle through the systems and experience health disparities. For example, without housing, many cannot secure a job, consequently they cannot afford to go to the doctor, and unaddressed medical concerns for people experiencing homelessness result in 20-year difference in life expectancy compared to housed individuals. Also, the justification of evictions from decades past does not take into consideration the individual context of which the eviction was administered or the individual growth since its administration. Removing this eviction barrier could allow for individuals to get off the streets and into housing.

Further, we know the population experiencing homelessness in Madison disproportionately represents Black individuals, specifically Black men. Historically, people of color have been negatively impacted by housing institutions including redlining and evictions. Although there is much more work to be done to correct historic and institutionalized racism, this petition takes a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, Madison Street Medicine urges 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,

Tijana Sagorac Gruichich, Assistant Executive Director
Madison Street Medicine

