

Clerk of the Supreme Court

August 23, 2022

Attn: Deputy Clerk-Rules

PO Box 1688

Madison Wisconsin

53701-1688

Dear Honorable Justices:

I am writing in support of Petition 22-03, Eviction Record Retention. I am a resident of Rock County

For more than 40 years, I was a child psychologist who treated many children living in poverty. I did home visits as well as clinic visits, so I saw the housing conditions the children and their families endured. Sometimes housing was very inadequate, such as absence of appliances and basic furniture. This meant people had to use ice chests and plate burners for food preservation and production. Lacking beds, children had to sleep on the floor.

Extreme poverty is very detrimental to children's health and development. Healthy food and adequate housing form the basics of children's growth and capacity for learning. In addition, housing insecurity places stress on parents, increasing the risk of mental health problems. Parental mental health issues present very serious risks for children.

All these factors suggest that eviction records being kept for 20 years, affecting housing access and security, can place unnecessary stress on the children we want to become the healthy and stable citizens of the future. Denied access to housing can result in frequent changes of residence so children have difficulty settling into a community. They also may be required to change schools, affecting their learning development.

I ask you to consider supporting Petition 22-03, so that evictions do not follow a family for 20 years, jeopardizing their capacity for stability in a community.

Thank you.

Sally McCoy PhD

Child Psychologist (retired)