

August 20, 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 as a board member of MACH One Health, a Madison-based organization that fills gaps in health care and housing for persons experiencing housing insecurity. I am writing in support of Petition 22-03 related to reducing the length of time eviction records are held.

I believe that this Petition will help reduce the harm of eviction, while allowing rental properties to run effectively. Safe and affordable housing is vital to stabilizing communities.

Petition 20-03 will help reduce the harm of eviction records by reducing the length of time that they can be held, in cases where money is not owed. Eviction records, maintained by the courts, perpetuate a system that allows landlords to use eviction notices as a tool and threat. It helps to perpetuate the extreme housing insecurity of many low and extremely low-income renters.

In Wisconsin, most low-income renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent, which means they are vulnerable to any change in expenses or income. My organization, MACH One Health, sees the impact of this housing insecurity every day, in the homeless population that it serves. In Madison, there were 700 un-housed people identified in January 2022. 30% of them were in families with children, 24% had been un-housed for at least a year. Over 40% of the un-housed people were Black, although only 5.5% of Dane County residents are Black. Evictions impact Black and Latinx renters more than white renters, which increases their reliance on housing that is not stable and unsafe, thus increasing their chance of being evicted.

Eviction filings can have a severe impact on a renter, many of whom are families with children. A downward spiral is created, and the principal victims are often children, whose education, health and sense of community can be severely disrupted by housing insecurity.

I urge you to adopt Petition 22-03. It will have a significant impact on reducing the harm of eviction records by reducing the length of time they are held.

Many thanks for your attention.



Anne Reynolds, Board member
MACH One Health

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