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April 3, 2019

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Dear Chair Pozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Shannon Singleton and I am the Executive Director of JOIN in Portland. JOIN exists to support the efforts of homeless individuals and families to transition out of homelessness into permanent housing. Our efforts are directed at individuals sleeping outside or in their car in the Portland Metro area. Our service provision is not dependent on age, gender, race, ethnicity, faith, culture, language, sexual identity, specific diagnosis, or identifiable issue.

At JOIN we believe housing is a human right and that everyone deserves stable housing, especially considering the severity of our current housing crisis. **JOIN supports SB 873**, which would allow tenants to seek sealing of certain eviction records. The proposed bill will provide tenants with a tool that will help implement a long-standing policy that certain eviction records ought not to be considered in the housing application process. Additionally, screening reports can make it hard for people to access housing, and while current law prohibits landlords from considering certain court records, nothing protects against those records showing up in a screening report. The ability to seal records can help make sure that the information provided in a screening report is compliant with the law.

People who rent their homes are depending on the Legislature to **vote yes to support SB 873** in order to provide basic protections and stability. This bill will increase fairness and increase access to housing by removing barriers; it is critical the Legislature act now to pass SB 873. Please vote yes on SB 873.

Thank you so much for the hard work you all do for our community, and thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Shannon Singleton, MSW

Executive Director, JOIN