



March 2, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, we express our support for Senate Bill 519.

Although personal records kept by public entities are obviously important for a number of reasons, it has now become disturbingly routine to have such records accessible throughout the private sphere. Particularly in the case of records relating to individuals in the juvenile delinquency system, this should not be tolerated.

This problem is particularly troublesome because research has established that the human brain is not fully developed until approximately age 25.¹ Actions taken and decisions made as a juvenile should not be measured by the same yardstick as those made by an adult.

Many of these young people also found themselves in this system because of factors beyond their control, such as poverty and racial discrimination. Their choices were limited by these factors and they could not access opportunities that were available to those with more resources.

Once an adult, these individuals find that their juvenile court records are being used against them as they seek attempt to buy or rent a residence, obtain a job, advance their education or obtain a professional license. This practice places significant barriers to having them take their legitimate place in society and build successful adult lives.

Senate Bill 519 was the result of much work on the part of a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders. It represents a comprehensive, balanced approach to the juvenile expunction process.

We urge your support of SB 519 and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claire Berger
State Public Policy Chair,
American Association of University Women of Oregon

¹ *Brain Research Advances Help Elucidate Teen Behavior*, American Psychological Association, <https://www.apa.org/monitor/julaug04/brain>