



Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

My name is Noah Bein, and I am a state policy manager for the Justice Action Network (JAN), an organization working with state legislators across the country to advance bipartisan criminal justice laws that keep the public safe. JAN supports Senate Bill 519 as a common-sense, bipartisan reform that will benefit community safety, the Oregon economy, and the trajectories of young people in your state.

First, research is clear that more expungement is correlated with less crime.¹ When young people receive a second chance through record sealing, they no longer face barriers to obtaining a job, enrolling in college, or finding a place to live, all of which are life benchmarks that lower the odds of reoffending. One study of people who expunged adult criminal records found earnings that spiked by an average of 22 percent and recidivism fell in the year after expungement.² As a result, it should be of serious public safety concern that so few Oregonians eligible to clear their juvenile records are able to do so successfully. SB 519 is not just a means of expanding Oregon's tax base and addressing the current workforce shortage by boosted employment rates; SB 519 is also a crime-fighting solution.

Second, the scope and policy contained in this bill is in line with statutes from both red and blue states across the country. States as politically diverse as Nevada, Indiana, Texas, and Illinois automatically expunge and/or seal juvenile misdemeanors under criteria similar to those in SB 519. While these states may differ in their politics—and even in how punitively their juvenile justice systems respond to delinquency—all of them agree that youth misdemeanor records should not follow law-abiding individuals into adulthood.

With this in mind, we urge you to support of SB 519. If JAN can be of service to this committee in any way going forward, please be in touch.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Noah Bein
State Policy Manager
Justice Action Network

¹ Alfred Blumstein, Kiminori Nakamura, "Extension of Current Estimates of Redemption Times: Robustness Testing, Out-of-State Arrests, and Racial Differences"; Sonja Starr and J.J. Prescott, "Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study"

² *Ibid.*