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**TO: House Committee on Judiciary**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: May 4, 2023**  
**RE: Support for SB 519**

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Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Wallan and Andersen, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Mae Lee Browning. I represent the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. OCDLA's 1,200 members statewide include public defense providers, private bar attorneys, investigators, experts, and law students. Our attorneys represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Our mission is championing justice, promoting individual rights, and supporting the legal defense community through education and advocacy.

**OCDLA supports SB 519.** Thank you to Senator Dembrow, Youth Rights and Justice, and the entire workgroup for their collaboration in moving this important bill forward.

OCDLA was a part of the multi-disciplinary workgroup convened by Senator Dembrow that included all juvenile justice stakeholders. The workgroup started meeting in 2019, introduced a consensus bill in the 2020 session, and then again in the 2021 session. OCDLA supported SB 575 in the 2021 legislative session, which established an automated process for expunging records of persons over 18 years old who have never been found within the juvenile court jurisdiction but have had a "contact" (a law enforcement report of a behavior that could have resulted in juvenile court involvement). OCDLA continues to support the efforts of this workgroup.

SB 519 builds on the work that began with SB 575 (2021) by adding juvenile records of violations and misdemeanors to the existing, successful process of expunging referral records, and reduces the waiting period expunctions by application from five to four years. SB 519 also adds payment of restitution as a criterion for statutorily required expunctions and ensures that victims receive notice of the process to expunge misdemeanor and violation records.

Youth face a number of collateral consequences if they are not able to have their records expunged. These consequences can be a barrier to their reentry into the community and the beginning of their adulthood. Such consequences can impact their likelihood to get certain jobs, occupational licenses, entry into college, entry into the military, and housing. Collateral consequences make communities less safe. Studies show that individuals who are unable to find employment or attend school are more likely to commit crime or



recidivate. Furthermore, having a juvenile record is more debilitating to youth of color than their white peers.

The expunction process is complicated and expensive for both the state and the youth. Because of that, a very small percentage of youth who qualify to have their records expunged actually go through the process and are successful at getting their records expunged. Youth are capable of rehabilitation. Science shows that youth are particularly responsive to rehabilitative efforts and often “outgrow” their problematic behaviors.

**We urge your support of SB 519.**

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