

Chair Kropf

Vice-Chair Andersen

Vice-Chair Wallan

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**Support House Bill 4097– Lift Barriers to Record Clearance**

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan, Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Stand for Children would like to relay our strong support for House Bill 4097, which will allow more Oregonians to efficiently and equitably clear their records. Oregon currently has very long waiting periods for expungement, in some cases as long as 20 years. This is not only well above the national average, but also counter to the research which has shown that if an individual remains crime-free for four to seven years, they are no more likely to commit a new crime than the general population.

Access to housing, employment, and higher education are all impacted by criminal records. After someone has served whatever sentence was imposed and remained crime-free for an appropriate amount of time, they should be allowed to move on and lead a productive life without the burden of a criminal record. This is especially important for Oregonians with children, as even a minor record can be a life-sentence to poverty. We believe that in order to build a more racially just future, House Bill 4097 is crucial.

Stand for Children is proud to support this bill, we urge you to vote YES on House Bill 4097.

Thank you,

Sarah Pope

Executive Director, Stand for Children Oregon