



March 6, 2023

Re: HF 2023 (Clean Slate Act)

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Finance & Civil Law Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed automatic expungement process in HF 2023. Current law already provides for a simple and effective process for expungement of criminal records. The League supports tools to aid qualified offenders in the current process as well as added resources to provide greater awareness of it. The League also supports the bill's overarching goals to increase successful reentry and rehabilitation of qualified offenders. However, this bill does not adequately address victims and the greater public's interests and instead favors individual offenders over those who could be impacted by adverse public safety outcomes.

The League is concerned that HF 2023 does not adequately address the important statutory factors required to be considered under current law, including the risk a person poses to individuals or society, aggravating or mitigating factors related to the underlying crime, steps taken by the individual toward rehabilitation, and the recommendations of victims and/or situations in which a restitution obligation toward a victim remains unfulfilled. Any expungement legislation should take into account these and other factors to reinsure there is an explicit means to balance the important public policy of overall crime reduction through maintaining and accessing certain criminal histories with the interests of rehabilitated individuals to live without the stigma of an arrest or conviction. The current statutory scheme provides this balance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Y. Beety', is written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Y. Beety
General Counsel