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March 29, 2017

TO: Senator Van H. Wanggaard, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
Senator Patrick Testin, Vice-Chair  
Senator Duey Stroebel, Member  
Senator Fred Risser, Member  
Senator Lena C. Taylor, Member

FROM: Ken Taylor, Executive Director Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Copy: Valirie Maxim, Committee Clerk

RE: Senate Bill 53 related to expungement

I am writing in support of **SB53** which eliminates the requirement that a sentencing court authorize expungement of a criminal record at the time of sentencing and provides a process step by which an individual can later petition the court for expungement. Maintaining the option for the sentencing court to authorize expungement as currently practiced and adding this additional option for individuals that have successfully complied with/completed their sentence is a step forward in removing barriers to employment, financial aid, and other opportunities that will help the individual get back on track and become a contributing member of our community and economy.

We know that the later teen years and early adulthood represent a time when the attitudes and decision-making skills of youth are still in their formative stages, and for those individuals who can then demonstrate to the court they have been held accountable and matured this offers a chance for the kind of “earned redemption” that we all hope the justice system can support. We therefore encourage members to approve SB53.