

THỦY TRẦN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 45



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 23, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 2492 A

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I appreciate the work that went into HB 2492 A and the amendments brought forward in an attempt to clarify the intent of the bill; I wholeheartedly support policy that protects survivors of domestic and sexual violence. However, this bill does so at the expense of Oregonians' ability to be self-reliant contributing members of our communities.

HB 2492 A increases the waiting period for expungement eligibility from 1 to 5 years in cases of contempt of court. These additional years represent invisible shackles that hold back Oregonians long after they've paid their debt to society. Those 4 years represent time that individuals are hindered from accessing stable housing, employment, and meaningful community participation.

During the last short session, I supported this concept, as part of a multi-pronged approach to expedite expungement for those Oregonians who have met the requirements for eligibility. Currently, there are over 2.9 million cases potentially eligible for expungement and approximately 100,000 of those cases have already qualified, but remain unresolved due to outstanding court debt. As a carveout to protect domestic and sexual violence survivors in the larger effort to resolve those outstanding cases, the extension to 5 years is acceptable; on its own, it is a serious barrier to individuals getting their lives back on track.

We know that removing barriers to good-paying jobs strengthens families, significantly reduces recidivism, and strengthens our economy. Right now, Oregon has a serious workforce issue, while unemployment for individuals with criminal records remains five times the state average. Expungement embodies dignity, redemption, and fairness.

Throughout my career, I've consistently fought for second chances, which is what expungement provides. However well-intentioned this bill is, I have made the difficult decision to be a "no" vote today on the Floor.

Thank you,


Representative Thủy Trần
House District 45

