

Chairwoman Moore, Chairwoman Khan, Ranking Members Scott & Sampson
And Members of the Housing Committee

Proposed Bills –HB 05242

IN OPPOSITION

I am writing to express concerns I have with the bill - HB 05242.

While we should seek ways to reorient those who have committed crimes back into society, I believe that this bill is overly broad. Housing providers should be provided with the latitude to make decisions that are appropriate for the communities they manage.

The proposed legislation would prohibit housing providers from denying a prospective resident's application if the crime occurred 3 years before the application was submitted. There are serious gaps within the legislation that do not consider **a)** repeat offenders **b)** property crimes **c)** violent crimes or **d)** crimes of sexual nature. In addition, there are individuals who commit such heinous crimes that they simply cannot be rehabilitated.

In acknowledging this, housing providers are in the business of providing housing. From my experience, housing providers do not automatically deny every applicant with a criminal record—*context* is important. This bill would eliminate a housing provider's ability to consider context in choosing whether or not to provide housing to a renter.