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Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary, my name is Jaci Hall the Executive Director of the North Dakota Association for Justice. I am here today in support of HB 1263.

HB1263 provides a clear pathway for those with a conviction to petition the court to seal their record within one year instead of three. This pathway is individual and is determined on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes a case that was denied by the court should be appealed and this legislation will allow an individual to appeal the decision.

Sealing a criminal record may significantly improve an individual's chance at finding employment, housing or other opportunities that might be restricted due to a criminal background check. Sealing a record may give them a second chance in a normal life.

We believe that everyone should get a chance to redeem themselves for a mistake they made. This legislation does not give the individual a free pass, rather a pathway to petition the court to give them an opportunity for redemption.

We ask the committee for a do pass on HB1263.