Written-Only *Proponent* Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 363
Dalton Black, Executive Director of United Way of Harvey and Marion Counties

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Dalton Black, Executive Director
United Way of Harvey and Marion Counties
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Chair Sean Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2768.

My name is Dalton Black, and I serve as the Executive Director of United Way of Harvey and Marion Counties. Our organization works closely with individuals and families facing housing instability, financial hardship, and crisis situations. We often help coordinate support across multiple community partners to prevent eviction and keep people safely housed.

I support HB 2768 because it addresses a practical problem we have seen firsthand in our communities: families may have the funds and community support to pay rent in full and on time, but the landlord's payment systems or policies make it difficult or impossible to accept those payments.

In our work, there have been multiple situations where we brought together support from several sources to help a tenant stay housed. These supports may include assistance from a nonprofit, support from a church or community organization, help from family members, and direct contributions from the tenant.

Even when everyone is working in good faith and the goal is to get the rent paid on time, we have encountered landlords and payment systems that:

- would not accept multiple payments,
- made third-party payments difficult to process, or
- created barriers that delayed assistance and increased the risk of eviction.

That creates unnecessary harm for tenants and extra strain on community organizations trying to help. It can also lead to avoidable evictions, even when the full rent could have been paid.

HB 2768 helps address this by requiring landlords to accept multiple payments as long as rent is paid on time and in full, while still preserving landlords' rights under the Kansas Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. From our perspective, this is a practical step that can improve housing stability without removing a landlord's ability to enforce lease obligations.

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We also support the bill's requirement that landlords consider lawful income when income is used as a condition for housing qualification. In community-based work, we regularly see households with legitimate income streams that do not always fit neatly into automated screening systems or rigid assumptions. When lawful income is not fully considered, families can be denied housing opportunities despite having the ability to pay. HB 2768 addresses that issue directly.

This bill would make a meaningful difference for the families we serve and for the organizations working to prevent homelessness in Kansas. It would help us respond more effectively in crisis situations and improve our ability to coordinate timely assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2768. I respectfully ask the Committee to support this bill.

United Always,

Dalton Black
Executive Director