Hello my name is Jessica Smith, I am the McKinney Vento Liaison for Kansas City, KS Pubic Schools.

In case you are not aware of what the McKinney Vento program is, it is a federally supported program that ensures when a student/family becomes homeless the student is able to stay at their school of origin. It also ensures that a student does not have any barriers to enrollment because of being homeless.

Families become homeless for various reasons, it may be a fire, it may be divorce, however the vast majority of families become homeless due to eviction.

Will HB 2768 , stopped all families from being evicted, of course not, could it save the homes of several families absolutely.

These days families are struggling to make ends meet. At times paying rent in its entirety can take up someone's entire paycheck. This could leave a family with no money for food, hygiene products and other needs for up to two weeks. Just imagine if a landlord would take the rent payment in two payments, this could allow a family to budget in a more realistic way. This could save several families from ever having to qualify for the McKinney Vento program.

Imagine having a child with a major disability that does not allow you as the caregiver to work full time. You depend on three sources of income to make ends meet, a part-time pay check, disability and child support, but when applying for an apartment or new home, the management tells you they can only accept the income from your part time job, that takes away 2/3s of your income, now you don't qualify. If HB 2768 comes into effect a landlord would have to accept all the sources of income that you can offer.

HB 2768, does not cut landlords short, it does not offer anything free or let tenants "get away" with anything. What it is doing is offering a different option to families that are already struggling, families that are already concerned about so many other things in this world, why make them stress and worry about their home.

I completely support HB 2768 and feel that it would be a major help to families in need.