KANSAS INTER FAITH ACTION

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Testimony by Rabbi Moti Rieber in Support of HB 2768, multiple payment amounts and counting certain income when considering a tenant or prospective tenant's qualifications for housing
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, Rep. Sean Tarwater, Chair

February 24, 2026

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action, a statewide, multifaith issue-advocacy organization that "puts faith into action" on a variety of important social and economic justice issues. We work with many of the Mainline denominations in Kansas, including the local judicatories of the ELCA Lutheran Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church, as well as with hundreds of congregations and thousands of people of faith in Kansas. I rise today in support of HB 2768.

KIFA is a member of Kansas Housing Advocacy Network (KHAN), which is a statewide coalition dedicated to a multi-pronged approach to housing and homelessness: 1) Increasing the stock of affordable housing, which is in great shortage in Kansas, 2) stabilizing people in danger of losing their homes, and 3) getting homeless people rehoused as quickly as possible through a "Housing First" approach. The legislation is the second of these categories.

We support this bill because it addresses two critical barriers to housing stability: lump sum rent constraints, and source of income discrimination.

For the low-to-moderate income families that belong to our congregations and communities, every dollar matters. HB 2768 gives Kansans the freedom to pay rent in single or multiple payments as long as rent is paid on time. Corporate rental companies mostly use online payment portals to collect rent; these can be set to accept multiple payment sources, but in Kansas are not required to. Tenants could also make rental payments twice a month, when they get paid – as mortgage holders are allowed to do.

Additionally, low-to-moderate income Kansans deserve to have all of their income counted. While HB 2768 does not require landlords to consider Section 8 or Housing Choice Vouchers as income, it does require landlords to allow applicants to share a more full picture of their income when applying for housing. This includes wage income as well as VA, SSI, SSDI income, gig work, child support, alimony, pensions, cash income, and more. These are all valid forms of payment and therefore should count towards qualifying for a rental property. This bill ensures that Kansans on fixed income and folks like freelancers can show that income to landlords in the application process, in addition to taxable wage income. Given how many people rely on non-traditional W2 work these days, this provision will be critical for many.

Last but not least, churches and other faith communities are often "first responders" when people experience housing instability – including sometimes extending assistance to congregants in temporary financial distress. Under this bill, if a renter has a family member or charitable organization helping them out, then that individual or organization can also make a payment on the renter's behalf. This provision is critical for our houses of

worship (or other agencies, such as Jewish Family Services or Catholic Charities) who provide such assistance.

Nothing in this bill would soften or eliminate any financial obligation from tenant to landlord. Rent would still have to be paid in full by the due date, or eviction proceedings can be initiated, just as before.

We at KIFA, and the denominations and congregations that we partner with, are guided by the idea (taken from our faiths) that every person possesses inherent dignity, and that our laws should reflect a commitment to the common good and the protection of the vulnerable, including as it relates to housing. This bill puts that in action. We believe that this bill would enable more people to stay housed, with the resultant family and community stability, which is good for all of us. As people called to put our faith into action, we urge you to vote YES on HB 2768. Thank you.