Web-Ex Proponent Testimony to House Bill 2768

Sister Amy Willcott, Director
Depaul USA Leavenworth Attainable Housing
521 N. 7th St
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Date: February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Tarwater, Vice Chair Ward and Committee members,

I am writing on behalf of Depaul USA Leavenworth in strong support of HB 2768.

Depaul USA Leavenworth is a nonprofit organization that owns or manages 19 scattered-site homes in our community. Beyond simply providing housing, we offer a circle of support to individuals and families in our program. Even when someone does not qualify for our housing, we do everything we can to connect them with available resources. Because of this work, we have direct, daily experience with the issues addressed in HB 2768.

Several months ago, I received a call from an elderly gentleman who was desperate for financial assistance. He had lived in his apartment building for many years and had always paid his rent in full—just in two payments each month. This arrangement aligned with the timing of his income and had worked well for both him and the previous property manager. However, when new ownership took over, they refused to continue that arrangement. The gentleman was distraught and fearful of losing his home simply because he could not pay the full month's rent on the first day of the month.

As both a nonprofit and a landlord of 19 homes, we understand that flexibility can make the difference between stability and homelessness. We allow our residents to make multiple rent payments each month based on the timing of their income. This grace and consideration go a long way toward helping people remain housed and move forward. We have residents who face unexpected dental bills for their children or car repairs that threaten their ability to get to work in a town with limited transportation. When emergencies arise, families must redirect income temporarily while learning to build savings for the future. Allowing rent to be paid in two installments enables renters to manage their finances responsibly and avoid late fees and eviction.

Admittedly, we are not the "usual landlord." Our goal is long-term success and stability for our residents, not punishment for temporary obstacles.

Nonprofits and helping agencies also feel the impact of landlords' policies. When renters are threatened with eviction, they call organizations like ours for help. Recently, a young

man reached out because he had just started a new welding job but had not yet received his first full paycheck. He was short on rent and facing eviction. While we do not typically provide emergency rental assistance, I could not in good conscience allow a hardworking young man to lose his housing. I wrote a $1,500 check directly to the management company for his two-bedroom apartment. He and I have a written agreement that he will repay us with his next paycheck.

These are not isolated stories—they represent a pattern we see regularly. HB 2768 promotes fairness for both renters and landlords. Consideration and reasonable flexibility help keep people housed, strengthen families, stabilize the workforce, and build stronger communities.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2768.

Thank you for your time and consideration.