To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
From: Justin Gust, Resident in Olathe, KS
Date: February 23rd, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2768

Dear Chair Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Gust and I am a lifelong Kansas resident, born and raised. I am also a life-long renter in Johnson County. Today I want to share some of the challenges I have personally encountered as a renter and why I support HB 2768.

I have lived in over 10 different apartment complexes in just the past 15 years. Each place comes with its own set of rules, which includes how to pay rent. I have seen many place go to online portals for payment, eliminating the possibility of paying rent in cash or by check in person at the property management office. You have to download a specific app the company uses and the apps all vary with the type of payment options allowed. I have never seen any that allow for multiple payments or payment sources.

Why is this a problem? Well one challenge is splitting the rent with roommates. I have had to work out different ways that my roommates and I can pay the rent each month, when landlords only accept one payment. Another challenge is when times get hard and help is needed. Like many coming home from college, I had a moment where I struggled to pay my monthly rent. I had asked a friend to help loan me some money, which she was happy to do, but wanted to make a direct payment to my landlord rather than me. Unfortunately, the landlord at the time did not accept more than one payment. I ended up paying my friend what I was able to pay for that month, and she wrote a check for my full rent amount. On top of that, she had to get a cashier's check, not a personal check, as she was not a tenant living on the property.

At the time, I felt embarrassed already to have to ask my friend for support, but the additional issues because of the landlord's payment policy made the situation worse. Not all families have support systems or friends that can help. When they do though, they should not have to feel more embarrassed or face additional barriers in trying to pay their rent on time.

I support HB 2768 as it allows renters like me peace of mind knowing that I can pay my rent on time with more than one payment if needed. Ultimately it will make it easier for roommates and families to make their payments to their landlords. Please consider supporting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin Gust