

Molly Roecker

HB 2504

Private Citizen

2/3/2026

Thank you, Chair Kessler and members of the committee, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2504 with you. My name is Molly Roecker, I am a voter in Douglas County, and I am speaking to you today to urge you to vote NO on HB 2504.

I stand in opposition of this bill because it makes it even more difficult for renters to find and remain in housing and it wastes money that has already been spent.

Housing discrimination protections have long existed in Kansas. According to Kansas Legal Services, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 protects against discrimination based on race, national origin, religion, color, sex, familial status or handicap in many actions including refusing to rent. Why then, should it be acceptable for landlords to discriminate against renters based on their income source? According to data from the Kansas Legislature website, collectively, this committee represents 73,320 renters. That is 73,320 individuals who would be directly and systematically disadvantaged by this bill. Representatives, I am hoping your focus is on housing Kansans that need it, not making it harder for them to do so.

Further, according to the Lawrence Douglas County Housing Authority, Lawrence has seen and increase of 6.9% in the use of already issued vouchers. This means that prior to source of income discrimination protection in Lawrence, money the government had already spent on issuing these vouchers was not being used out fear or experience of discrimination because of their source of income. As it currently stands, no other municipality in Kansas has source of income discrimination protection. This bill would eliminate that progress in Lawrence and prevent any other municipality in Kansas from making the same progress. Vouchers are reliable, stable ways for renters to cover rent that cost landlords nothing. In fact, tenants using housing vouchers are no more likely to be bad tenants than those without assistance according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Housing vouchers are a financial protection not just for tenants, but for landlords as well, ensuring that even if a tenant's income suddenly changes, the amount the voucher covers will adjust accordingly, and the landlord will still receive the rent payment.

Representatives, I urge you to vote with 73,320 of your constituents and vote NO on HB 2504 because it makes it even more difficult for renters to remain housed and it wastes money that has already been spent. Thank you again for your time.

Sources:

<https://www.kansaslegalservices.org/fair-housing-rights#:~:text=In%20the%20Sale%20and%20Rental,Make%20housing%20unavailable>

https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/committees/ctte_h_fed_st_1/

<https://kansasreflector.com/2024/06/14/lawrence-experience-shows-that-banning-discrimination-against-housing-voucher-recipients-works/>

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIH-HCV-Landlord-Myth-Busting-and-Benefits-Fact-Sheet.pdf>