



February 10, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB 2357

Presented by Council Member Dalton Glasscock

Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a Wichita City Council member and a landlord myself, I understand both the challenges of property management and the importance of stable housing. Evictions are sometimes necessary, but they should not be a permanent sentence against a person's ability to secure future housing. HB 2357 strikes the right balance; it ensures that landlords can make informed decisions while preventing tenants from being unfairly punished for dismissed cases or resolved disputes. A mere eviction filing should not become an automatic barrier to housing, especially when no judgment was entered against the tenant.

This bill supports property owners by encouraging mediation, reducing costly turnover, and ensuring that only relevant eviction history is used in rental decisions. It does not erase legitimate judgments, nor does it prevent landlords from protecting their investments. Instead, it ensures that people who have met their obligations and corrected past issues are not permanently locked out of housing. By sealing cases that did not result in a judgment and allowing expungement for satisfied debts after two years, this bill fosters responsibility without endless punishment.

Housing instability weakens communities, increases reliance on public services, and harms local economies. Evictions should be a tool for landlords to recover their property, not a lifelong barrier that keeps people from rebuilding. By requiring mediation and limiting the misuse of eviction filings in screening processes, HB 2357 promotes fairness, efficiency, and accountability in the rental market.

I urge the committee to pass this bill because it protects both landlords and tenants, ensures fair housing practices, and strengthens Kansas communities. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.