



February 10, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary

Chair, Rep. Susan Humphries

Vice Chair, Rep. Laura Williams

Ranking Minority Member, Rep. Dan Osman

Re: House Bill 2357

Chairwoman Humphries, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Minority Member Osman, and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding the lives HB 2357 would potentially benefit if passed.

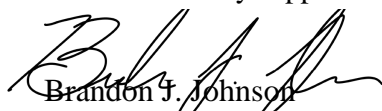
This legislation would provide for the sealing and expungement of court records in eviction actions is a significant step forward in assisting Kansans whom find themselves in unfortunate predicament of retaliatory evictions while simply seeking a decent place to live.

I have worked with a number of individuals seeking to flee substandard housing (i.e.: black mold, pest infestations and/or non-responsive landlords) whom have had the fortune to find a new residence or are in the process of negotiating a vacate in-lieu of eviction to a new residence; whom were impacted by the simple filing of an eviction.

This, unfortunately, is a practice that some landlords/ property management companies' use as means to bully tenants, but since the records are currently open, it impacts tenants ability to gain access to other housing opportunities. For example, if one were to have had an eviction filed against them, any other landlord or property management company would be able to view the filing, regardless of the merit, and deny the application based on the simple filing of an eviction.

This legislation would put an end to that practice, but also still allow for eviction cases with merit to be open after the case is complete. Having a two year automatic expungement in cases where the judgment, including a monetary award, if any, is satisfied and two years have passed from the date of judgment will also ensure that Kansans who have evictions on their record don't have long-term detrimental impacts finding housing.

I wholeheartedly support this legislation and I pray you will too.


Brandon J. Johnson
Council Member – District 1