

February 10th, 2025

House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Health Forward Foundation support for HB 2357 – providing for sealing and expungement of court records in eviction actions and for requiring mediation in certain instances.

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this written-only testimony in support of HB 2357. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems. We support this legislation as eviction mediation helps to provide the best outcomes for landlord and tenant, providing for much more stable housing for people and communities.

HB 2357 is a good bill as it protects tenants during an eviction filing which can put them in a position of being unable to find housing, especially if the filing is inaccurate or dismissed. This bill helps to ensure that people who've had an inaccurate eviction filing or dismissed filing won't have their tenant risk score damaged for a mistaken eviction filing. Furthermore, this bill helps people who've been evicted but who have maintained a clear record since by having their eviction record expunged after seven years.

Evictions are a difficult thing, and they are especially challenging in rural areas. About [220,000 evictions](#) are filed each year in rural counties. The [research available](#) also links evictions to a host of bad outcomes – decreased earnings, increased homelessness, and worse health outcomes than those who are not evicted and which impact people of color disproportionately. In the midst of a housing crisis in the United States and Kansas alike, we should be finding solutions – like HB 2357 – that help address this acute problem.

Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote yes on HB 2357 as it will help to provide more stable housing and fairness to tenants who may have had a mistaken or dismissed eviction filing against them. Please feel free to reach out to me at nmadden@healthforward.org if you have any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully,

Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D.
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Health Forward Foundation