



February 10, 2025

Dustin Hare, Economic Security Policy Advisor  
Kansas Action for Children  
Written-only Proponent Testimony on HB 2357  
House Committee on Judiciary

Chairwoman Humphries and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2357, which would provide for sealing and expungement of court records in eviction actions and require mediation in such eviction cases.

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.

We support this bill because it would offer Kansas families a path back to financial stability after an eviction. Under current Kansas statute, an eviction will stay on a tenant's record for the rest of their life. Any time they apply to rent an apartment, that eviction increases the likelihood that they will be disqualified.

When families cannot find a property owner that is willing to rent to them, it can lead to prolonged and cyclical poverty and can result in periods of sheltered or unsheltered homelessness.<sup>1</sup> Having no place to store food, clothes, and other everyday items necessitates the need to spend more money to frequently re-buy those items. Searching for a place to live and being consistently denied can also be expensive. A recent study found that tenants with evictions often had to submit more than 10 applications before they found a place that would approve them, spending an average of \$50 per application.<sup>2</sup> Some tenants spent thousands of dollars trying to find a place to live. This long list of struggles resulting from eviction are what eviction scholar Matthew Desmond references when he says, "eviction is a *cause*, not just a *condition*, of poverty."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Desmond, M. (July 2018). *Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty*. Harvard University. <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/desmond.evictionpoverty.ajs2012.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Eisenberg A. and Brantley K. (July 2024). *Record Costs: Collateral Consequences of Eviction Court Filings in Pennsylvania*. University of Michigan. <https://sites.fordschool.umich.edu/poverty2021/files/2024/07/Record-costs-Collateral-Consequences-of-Eviction-Court-Filings-In-Pennsylvania.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Gudrais, E. (February 2024). *Disrupted Lives*. Harvard Magazine. <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2013/12/disrupted-lives>