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**House Judiciary Committee  
Proponent Testimony -- HB 2028**

Dear Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee:

I am a practicing lawyer in Kansas who handles expungements. I fully support HB 2028, which would automate certain expungements of criminal cases. This bill will streamline and aid countless people in moving on with their lives who have either completed their cases with a dismissal, a not guilty verdict, or a diversion.

Part of my practice is handling expungements for individuals, some of which would be helped by the changes made in HB 2028. This bill could cut down on some the work my practice does, and I welcome the change. This will make it easier for people in this State to get expungements that they already qualify for under state law, and removes a barrier of access to the expungement. The filing fee for an expungement at a District Court in Kansas is \$195, which at minimum wage would take someone before taxes almost 27 hours to attain. Now, that does not even include the fee for an attorney, which depending on the case is typically at least two billable hours of time, which is hundreds and hundreds of dollars. HB 2028 provides individuals with the opportunity to have their case expunged without having to pay the filing fee, or an attorney. Access to justice and the ability to clean one's record shouldn't be predicated upon affording it.

Further, this will assist individuals in moving on with their lives after their cases are long over, and will provide them with better access to jobs, loans, schooling, rental homes or apartments, and more. The chance to move on from the past and into the future is often why people contact my practice seeking an expungement. There is a change they want to make, or an endeavor they wish to go on to grow in their lives, but the prior record they have, which would qualify for an expungement, is still holding them back.

For these reasons, and more, I urge this Committee to pass HB 2028, which would automatically expunge certain records from a person's criminal history record.

Best Regards,

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