



February 4, 2022

Kansas House Judiciary Committee
Re: Testimony in support of HB 2575

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this committee. On behalf of the Healthy Communities Wyandotte (HCW) Coalition, I am offering testimony in support of HB 2575 which will provide for a more streamlined or automated process for expungement or sealing of records from public view.

HCW is committed to addressing the social determinants of health and their impact on our community members. One way of promoting this work has been through the Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP) in Wyandotte County. Under the CHIP Jobs and Education plan, being justice-involved was identified as a barrier to accessing living wage jobs in Wyandotte County. A criminal record reduces a job seeker's chance of getting a callback or job offer by nearly 50 percent. Automated expungement of certain records is one way to remove barriers while entering the workforce for justice-involved individuals.

The HCW Coalition supports this legislation because the current petition-based process requires petition to courts and a fee of \$195. This is in addition to previous fees and fines a person may have already paid to the court. An automated process would allow more residents to have their records expunged. Expungement allows for someone to pay their dues and move forward with their lives without setbacks from the background checks of employers or landlords. In addition, qualified job seekers are able to re-enter the labor force and earn a decent living, obtain stable housing and access the education and training they need to move forward.

Thank you,

Bianca Garcia
Healthy Communities Wyandotte