

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee January 31, 2023 HB 2113

> Kansas Association of Counties Proponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Owens and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer proponent testimony on HB 2113, which would prevent individuals from having expungements denied solely on the basis of the inability to pay outstanding costs, fees, fines or restitution in certain circumstances.

While this bill is properly in the Corrections and Juvenile Justice committee, expungements are an economic development and workforce development issue. Juvenile convictions can often act as impediments for certain jobs later in life. Eliminating barriers to expungement is a positive step towards not only legal equity, but also economic and workforce development.

Certainly, KAC and its member counties still advocate that fees, fines, costs and restitution be paid, but those things should not prevent expungement, as an expungement may allow an individual to get a job that allows them to pay those fees, fines, costs and restitution. HB 2113 would not eliminate those fines, fees and restitution. It would simply prevent them from being a barrier to obtaining an expungement. KAC is supportive of the elimination of this barrier.

The Kansas Association of Counties supports the passage of HB 2113. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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