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House Judiciary Committee

February 3, 2022

RE: HB 2575 - Clean Slate Legislation

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing today in support of HB 2575, Clean Slate Legislation.

As a former Federal prosecutor, I strongly support this legislation as it gives individuals who have made a mistake in the past an opportunity to clean their record and to become productive functioning members of their communities.

Because individuals are often not aware of the expungement process, as well as the cost associated with petitioning the court for expungement, expungement is rarely used. This proposed legislation would allow for automatic expungement for minor infractions to be removed from individual records without the complications that presently exist. Several states have already enacted legislation like HB 2575 with others bringing this process to their legislatures<sup>i</sup>.

All too often individuals who have not had their records expunged find themselves in a difficult position when applying for a job. When an employer or prospective landlord does a background check on an individual who has not had their criminal record expunged, they are often denied employment and housing. HB 2575 helps remove these hurdles so that an individual who has served their time can reenter the work force in their communities in a meaningful fashion.

Because of the cost that is presently associated with expungement in Kansas, members of the lower income bracket seldom have the time nor the means to have their records expunged. Tragically that often translates low-paying jobs, poorly maintained housing, and difficulty climbing the social ladder. This legislation can have a meaningful impact on our communities.

I support the provisions of HB 2575 and it is my hope that you will as well.

Most respectfully,

Barry R. Grissom

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<sup>i</sup> Six states, including Pennsylvania, Michigan and Utah have passed similar legislation with New York and New Jersey's legislatures considering these proposed changes as well.