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House Judiciary Committee
Kansas House of Representatives

Re: Opposition to HB 2226

I have recently been informed of the introduction of House Bill 2226 and have taken the time to review the same. Frankly, I have tried to discern one logical reason to justify the passage of this bill, but have been unable to come up with one. Not only does it create an unnecessary and undue burden on the court, clerk and prosecutor, it is not difficult for any worthy defendant to obtain an expungement, if needed.

I have served as a prosecutor in Kansas municipal courts for 44 years and as a judge for 31. My experience directs me to offer the following in opposition to passage:

- Increased costs to municipal courts, already burdened by operating expenses.
- Many cases drag on for years, due to outstanding warrants, failure to pay fines in full, etc., and would create a logistical nightmare for court clerks.
- The substance of this bill would seem to imply that a conviction in municipal court is, somehow, not as worthy as a conviction of a misdemeanor in district court. These courts, in many cities, carry the workload of traffic offenses and minor criminal offenses, and are often the only court with which the general public has contact.
- It is not clear how a prosecutor would obtain the information required to file a petition.
- It would create an ethical dilemma for any prosecutor and give rise to potential violations of the rules of professional conduct with which every attorney must comply.

I would urge the committee to kill this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Collins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted F. Collins