



# Protection & Advocacy Project

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House Judiciary Committee

Senate Bill 2238 - March 12, 2025

Testimony of Micah Olson, P&A Position-In Support

My name is Micah Olson. I am an attorney at Protection & Advocacy. I am speaking in support of Senate Bill No. 2238, a bill relating to the sealing of eviction records.

Protection & Advocacy is in support of permitting an individual to move to have court records relating to an eviction sealed after seven years after the order for eviction has been satisfied. This would benefit individuals who have difficulty finding adequate housing due to an eviction. Evictions can occur for many reasons, and may often be disability-related. Potential disability-related issues that could lead to an eviction could include non-payment of rent due to financial exploitation or difficulty understanding a tenant's obligations. Disability may also affect an individual's ability to secure and maintain employment, which can strain finances and cause someone to fall behind on rent.

Individuals who have an eviction on their record have significant difficulty finding adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing. This change would put a mechanism in place to allow for the sealing of the eviction record, which would greatly improve an individual's housing prospects. This bill would not harm housing providers, since they could still see recent evictions that would raise concerns about the potential tenant. A seven-year-old eviction, with no subsequent issues should not be a concern to housing providers and should not prevent an individual from renting.

P&A recommends do pass on Senate Bill 2238.