

House Judiciary  
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 SB22-019 Access To Suppressed Court Eviction Records  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Aubrey Wilde            For            Colorado Coalition for the Homeless</p>	<p>Members of the House Judiciary Committee:</p> <p>The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) is in firm support of SB22-019.</p> <p>For nearly 40 years, the Coalition has worked collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for families, children, and individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado.</p> <p>We were part of the effort to craft and pass HB20-1009 to limit public access to eviction filing records, so that an eviction filing would not create a barrier to future housing. This has been an incredibly meaningful change, and our housing navigation and case management staff report that it has made the housing search more manageable for those who have faced eviction filings since its passage.</p> <p>We are fortunate that our friends at the Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP) hold a monthly free legal clinic for Coalition clients – typically at Stout Street Health Center but currently by video. Our clients lean heavily on these excellent pro bono attorneys when they face housing legal challenges. Their guidance has helped countless individuals avoid homelessness in the years we have worked with them.</p> <p>We understand that an unintended consequence of the 2020 bill made it difficult for legal assistance providers to access key court documents without first formally entering an appearance on behalf of the client. CPLP offers full representation to our clients in a small minority of cases, meaning they never get to the point of entering an appearance on their behalf in most cases. It is essential that these attorneys are able to access documents that give them a complete picture of the case so they can offer legal assistance or even just point clients in the right direction. This is especially important because clients that are struggling with mental health or other challenges may have a harder time explaining the details of the eviction proceedings, and the cost of pulling court files is prohibitive. The Coalition is optimistic that this bill will remove the barrier to support that was unintentionally established and will give legal assistance providers the access they need to best help our clients, preventing displacement and homelessness.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 29 so HB20-1009 can have its full, intended, positive impact. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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