



**Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson**  
**44<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 636. This piece of legislation establishes a procedure in which eviction records can be sealed. Under the bill, a tenant of a residential property, a resident of a manufactured home park, or the court itself, can file a motion in the court in which an eviction action (lawsuit) was commenced to order the court file related to the eviction lawsuit to be sealed.

My proposed legislation would do the following:

1. Establish a procedure for a tenant of a residential property, a resident of a manufactured home park, or the court itself to initiate a procedure to seal an eviction record.
2. Provide the court full discretion as to whether or not to grant the motion to seal the eviction record.
3. Provide the plaintiff (landlord) of the underlying eviction lawsuit an opportunity to respond to the motion by the defendant (tenant or the resident) to seal the record.
4. Limit the number of eviction records that can be sealed to a total of five per individual.
5. Require the clerk, if the court grants a motion to seal, to redact the tenant's or resident's name from all public records the clerk maintains, including the electronic case index system.

These common-sense reforms are just another measure that should already be in Ohio Revised Code. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 636. I urge you to pass this bill and would be happy to field any questions you may have.