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Comment:

I support the changes to MCR 4.201, the eviction case court rule, that the Supreme Court has proposed. I encourage you to adopt these changes. As a current legal assistant, I see every day how the court procedures and rules have a profound effect on tenants, especially on low-income, Black, and Latino tenants. Tenants are unfairly burdened with uninhabitable living conditions, and often have to choose between horrific home repair issues or being homeless. When they do report major repair problems, landlords ignore these requests for repairs and file for eviction. These landlords should be held accountable for their gross neglect, and I believe the court should commit that eviction cases cannot proceed without following state and local safety and compliance laws.

Although there could be more changes to promote protection of tenants, these changes give tenants more time and information during an unprecedented housing crisis. I support the use of remote technology and pre-trials in eviction proceedings. I have witnessed first hand how remote technology has enabled many more tenants to attend court. I support MCR 4.201 (B)(3)(c) because landlords should be required to follow the law if they want to leverage the court to evict tenants. Disregard the landlord industry's harmful comments, adopt the proposed changes, and do everything in your power to protect the rights and lives of tenants.