

Name: Jennifer Erb-Downward

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Comment:

As the Director of Housing Stability Programs and Policy Initiatives at Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, I am writing to support the the eviction case court rule that the Supreme Court has proposed. Prior to the pandemic and the modified court rules during that time, 16% of families with children in Detroit were either evicted or forced to leave their home in just one years time. These high rates of eviction are harming Detroit's children.

While the Court's proposed changes would not significantly alter the legal eviction process, they would provide tenants with information about resources, time to access their legal right to council and, if needed, time to find new housing so they do not become homeless. These steps could help tenants avoid possession judgments and bailiff evictions that lead to job loss, destruction of personal property, and trauma for residents and communities.

Research by Poverty Solutions suggests that modified court procedures have reduced the rate of default judgments and increased tenants' access to counsel. The proposed court rule amendments can help maintain these positive changes and better ensure basic tenant protections.

Evictions cause tremendous harm not only to the evicted families, but also the communities they live in. The proposed court rule changes are one step towards reducing this harm. I urge you to approve the proposed changes and take all actions within your power to protect the rights and lives of tenants.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Erb-Downward