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TO: Representative John Barker, Chair
The Honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jennifer M. Hill, President, Wichita Bar Association

RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to HCR 5004 and 5005

DATE: February 11, 2015

The Wichita Bar Association (WBA) appreciates this opportunity to be heard on the measures currently being considered by the Kansas Legislature that impact Kansas' judicial system and specifically, the selection of Kansas Supreme Court Justices.

With respect to the selection of Supreme Court justices, the WBA continues, as it long has, to support the current method of selection by Supreme Court nominating commission as found in the Kansas Constitution.

Lawyers are a diverse group, with many different areas of practice, different backgrounds, and different philosophical and political beliefs. But it is lawyers who see every day the impact of the Supreme Court's vast array of decisions on Kansans. As such, lawyers are in a unique position to evaluate the legal abilities of potential Supreme Court Justices. The WBA believes that lawyers should continue to have a meaningful role in the selection process and would encourage the Legislature to preserve that role.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Hill

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