



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

FROM: Holly A. Dyer, President, Wichita Bar Association

RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to HCR 5013

DATE: January 13, 2016

The Wichita Bar Association (WBA) appreciates this opportunity to be heard on HCR 5013 and specifically as it relates to the selection of Kansas Supreme Court justices and Kansas Court of Appeals judges.

The WBA continues, as it long has, to support the current method of selection of Supreme Court Justices by the Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

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 courts' vast array of decisions on Kansans. As such, lawyers are in a unique position to evaluate the legal abilities of potential appellate judges. The WBA believes that lawyers should have a meaningful role in the appellate judicial selection process and would encourage the Legislature to preserve that role and the Supreme Court Nominating Commission as currently provided for in the Kansas Constitution.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Dyer

Holly A. Dyer
President