

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff King at 10:45am on Monday, February 15, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Carolyn McGinn – Excused

Committee staff present:
Robert Gallimore, Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department
Suzanne Nelson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Equality Kansas;

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

Hearing continuation on: SB410 — Establishing a CARE family pilot program for foster care.

Chair King called the meeting to order. He reconvened the hearing on **SB410**, and called Tom Witt to testify.

Mr. Witt presented neutral testimony regarding **SB410**. He related that gay and lesbian households adopt and foster at up to four times the average rate. He further explained that the requirement in the bill that a couple be married for at least seven years may raise some equal protection problems, because couples barred from marriage for the last seven years in Kansas would not be able to take advantage of this program, should they desire to. ([Attachment 1](#))

Mr. Witt answered questions from Senator Pettey.

Chair King called the committee's attention to the neutral written-only testimony of Jaime Rogers, Prevention and Protection Services, Interim Director, Kansas DCF. ([Attachment 2](#))

Senator Knox was recalled and answered questions from the committee.

The Chair announced that the committee will work this bill later in this week. There being no further questions and no other oral or written proponent, opponent, or neutral testimony, the Chair closed the hearing on **SB410**.

The Chair turned the committee's attention to **SB440** and opened the hearing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:45am on Monday, February 15, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Hearing on:

SB440 --- Supreme court general administrative authority over judicial branch

The Chair announced that this hearing will be held open until Wednesday, February 17, 2016 to give all interested parties more time to read and understand the bill and come back with their testimony and questions.

Jason Thompson gave a detailed explanation of **SB440**, then answered questions from the committee.

The Chair pointed the committee's attention to the neutral written-only testimony of :

- Chief Judge Michael Powers, Chief Judge Daniel D. Creitz, and Chief Judge James Fleetwood, on behalf of the Kansas District Judges Association (KDJA) ([Attachment 3](#))
- Nancy Dixon, Judicial Administrator, Supreme Court of Kansas ([Attachment 4](#))

At this time, no other oral or written proponent, opponent, or neutral testimony has been submitted.

The hearing on **SB440** is held open and will continue on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Possible action on bills previously heard

No action was taken on any bills today.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 am. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.