

**SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**TESTIMONY OF JIM CLARK**

**JANUARY 27, 2016**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

I am Jim Clark, former Secretary of Administration. The purpose of my testimony today is to support the confirmation of Sarah Shipman as Secretary of Administration.

I worked with Sarah from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2015. Sarah was Chief Counsel for the Department of Administration when I came to work for the State of Kansas. It became apparent early on that she was capable of doing much more. In the spring of 2014 additional duties were assigned to Sarah and she became Deputy Secretary and Chief Counsel for the Agency.

In the fall of 2014 I assumed the duties of Director of OITS as well as those of Secretary of Administration. At that time Sarah assumed additional responsibilities so that I could spend the majority of my time addressing the issues within OITS. She accepted the additional responsibilities and did a superior job. When I made the decision to leave my positions I prepared recommendations for the Administration to transition the two Agencies.

My recommendation for the position of Secretary of Administration was Sarah. I have had the pleasure of working with many outstanding individuals over my career. Sarah is one of those. I am confident that she will always try to do the right thing for the right reasons. In fact, she is better at running the Agency on a day to day than I was. She is much better at following up on issues than I will ever be. I believe the Agency is in better hands today.

The key items the Committee should consider are: she understands the Agency and its mission, she was instrumental in preparing the strategic plan for the Agency, she knows the strengths and weaknesses of her staff and she is not afraid to make the tough decisions.

When you leave a job you always hope that the successor will build on the foundation that you have tried to put in place while you were there. Sarah has the talent, desire and knowledge to do that at the Department of Administration. I have no reservations in recommending her confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Administration.

Thank you, for the opportunity to testify in Sarah's behalf.