

Date: Feb 19, 2025

Bill: SCR1611

Proponent -Written only Testimony

Conferee: Patricia DeDamos

Representing: Self

Dear Chairman Thompson and Committee Members,

Please support SCR1611. Our Kansas Supreme court judges need to be accountable to someone beside themselves and their ideology.

The appointment of judges by a select group of their peers, namely other lawyers, undermines the principles of a balanced government. In Kansas, the people have the power to elect the Governor, State Attorney General, legislators, county commissioners, and local judges. That the selection of Supreme Court justices is not subject to the same democratic process, but rather left to an unelected commission. This disparity raises concerns about the judiciary's ability to function as an equal branch of government, as the current system shields justices from any form of accountability.

Both the United States and Kansas operate under the framework of a Constitutional Republic, which is founded on the rule of law. This fundamental principle dictates that all individuals, including those within the government, are bound by the law, thus preventing arbitrary actions or abuses of power. However, the Kansas Supreme Court has demonstrated a disregard for this principle, effectively placing itself above the laws enacted by the state legislature. This deviation from the core tenets of a Constitutional Republic highlights the need for a more transparent and democratic approach to the selection of Supreme Court justices.

The other side of this debate will be lawyers and lawyer groups, not THE PEOPLE of KANSAS, that should tell you everything you need to know.

Please support SCR 1611.

In Liberty and Truth,

Patricia DeDamos