

Date Submitted: February 12, 2025

Bill number: SCR 1611

Disposition: Opposed

Name: Carly Duvall Le Riche

Appearing on Behalf of: Self

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611, which proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and implement direct elections for Kansas Supreme Court justices.

I am a resident of Prairie Village and have been a licensed attorney in this state for 15 years. As an attorney, I strongly believe our judicial system must remain independent and free from political influence to ensure fair and impartial decision-making. The current merit-based selection process, which relies on a balanced commission of legal experts and informed citizens, helps insulate the judiciary from partisan politics and special interests.

Direct elections for Supreme Court justices would introduce campaign financing, political endorsements, and partisan agendas into a process that should be guided solely by legal expertise, integrity, and adherence to the rule of law. Judges should be accountable to the Constitution and the principles of justice—not to campaign donors or political parties.

I urge you to oppose SCR 1611 and uphold the merit-based selection process that has served Kansas well. Keeping politics out of our courts is essential to maintaining public confidence in the judiciary and ensuring fair and impartial justice for all Kansans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.