

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Concerning SCR 1611

Chair Thompson
Sen. Faust-Goudeau
Members of the Committee

Please report unfavorably SCR 1611 and/or any other such legislation.

I urge you to vigorously oppose any efforts to bring more partisanship into our Kansas judiciary. There are many reasons not to elect justices and judges, mostly having to do with the idea that the judiciary is not meant to be political, or subject to the will of the majority. It's the branch that's supposed to protect the rights of the minorities.

Judges should not be under obligation to political parties, elected leaders, or contributors to an election campaign. The need for judges to be independent interpreters of the laws and the constitution is vital to our system of government.

Kansas has long been recognized nationally as a leader in non-partisan selection of judges. SCR 1611 is the latest attempt to send us backward! We've fought this battle several times before in Kansas. We don't need to fight it again!

Thank you.

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