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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LANCE KINZER  
REPRESENTATIVE, 30TH DISTRICT

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chairman King and Members of the Committee:

It has been my privilege to know Caleb Stegall on both a personal and professional level for approximately eight years. Over that time I've come to respect Mr. Stegall for both his professional aptitude and personal integrity. I have worked for many years to reform our system of judicial selection with the specific goal of implementing a process that will enhance respect for the rule of law by creating legal structures that maximize the likelihood of high quality nominees, and then subjecting those nominees to rigorous public evaluation prior to confirmation. Mr. Stegall's nomination, and the process the Senate has wisely adopted in considering him for confirmation, are both tremendously positive signs that these goals have been and are being achieved.

In Federalist 76 Alexander Hamilton said of Executive Appointment:

The sole and undivided responsibility of one man will naturally beget a livelier sense of duty and a more exact regard to reputation. He will, on this account, feel himself under stronger obligations, and more interested to investigate with care the qualities requisite to the stations to be filled, and to prefer with impartiality the persons who may have the fairest pretensions to them.

By appointing Mr. Stegall, Governor Brownback has proven the wisdom of the founders correct once again. In considering the "qualities requisite to the station" Mr. Stegall has been nominated to fill, one immediately thinks of the need for intelligence, legal competency, impartiality, broadmindedness and integrity in our appellate court judges. In my eighteen years of legal practice I have encounter no one with fairer pretentions to these qualities than Mr. Stegall.

Because I care so deeply about the success of our new system of judicial selection I would have no hesitation whatsoever to sharply and publically criticize any actions that might undermine its effectiveness. As such it is a great pleasure to observe both the Governor's care in forwarding such an exemplary nominee, and the Senate's prudence in implementing such a thoughtful process in discharging its obligations as the confirming authority. I have no doubt that both our new process, and Mr. Stegall's historic position as the first nominee thereunder, will be looked back upon as important steps in

safeguarding the blessing of an independent and highly qualified judiciary in furtherance of the sacrosanct principle of respect for the rule of law.

I thank you for considering my thoughts respecting this matter, and urge the confirmation of Mr. Stegall.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Y. Kinzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lance Y. Kinzer  
State Representative, District 30  
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary