

LAW OFFICES

Patton and Patton

CHARTERED

BANK OF AMERICA TOWER
534 S KANSAS AVE., SUITE 1120
TOPEKA, KS 66603

(785) 273-4330
FAX (785) 354-1901

Joe Patton
Cindy Patton
Mike Patton

Legislative Testimony of Joe Patton
regarding House **Concurrent Resolution No. 5002**
Before the House Judiciary Committee

Jan. 22, 2013

As you may know I served three terms in the Kansas House of Representatives and was honored to serve as a member of the House Judiciary Committee. I have a tremendous respect for the legislative process and this committee in particular. The House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate are truly representative of the people of Kansas. As I reflect on my years here I realize that every conflict in our culture is played out in these halls. We have representatives from every walk of life, so each view point is heard and considered. Every person here has been elected by a majority of the voters in their districts and truly speaks for the voters. The process is lengthy, sometimes cumbersome, but open to everyone. Anyone can come to a public hearing on legislation and express their views. There is a public confidence that the laws created here have been democratically created. The people know who to hold accountable. As a result of this process the public respects the law. **This representative process gives the law legitimacy.**

The same type of legitimacy is needed for the judicial branch and the judges who serve there. I believe if the selection process is subject to this same legislative process as our laws, then the public will have the same confidence in the selected judges as they have for the law itself. We are not a government run by experts; we are a republic. It's not the expert that has the final say in our form of government. We value the input of experts, but all views are considered in an open and democratic process. As it is in the making of law, so it should be in the selection of the judges who apply the law.
