



## **Written Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 8**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and House Judiciary Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Bruning, and I am Vice President of Government Affairs with the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. I am submitting written testimony today in opposition to Senate Bill 8, which creates the Kansas Commission on Judicial Nominations and is the companion bill to SCR 1608, which abandons our current non-partisan, merit-based judicial selection process for both the Kansas Court of Appeals and the Kansas Supreme Court.

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce believes that an impartial judicial system is critical to maintaining a stable and prosperous business climate. When making financial and investment decisions, businesses require a non-partisan justice system which reduces the perception of risk and demonstrates that all parties start and remain on a level playing field.

Justice for businesses and individuals is more likely attained when judges are able to perform their roles based upon constitutional principles and the rule of the law, free from partisanship and the political and financial pressures of special interests. Job creators place a high value on consistency, integrity and predictability in running their businesses. The same is true for the judiciary.

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce opposes Senate Bill 8 (and its companion bill, SCR 1608) and supports a non-partisan merit system for selection of Kansas appellate and Supreme Court judges.