



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER

301 SW 10TH AVE.

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1507

HELEN PEDIGO
SPECIAL COUNSEL
TO CHIEF JUSTICE

PHONE: (785) 368-6327

FAX: (785) 291-3274

House Judiciary Committee

Representative John Barker, Chair

Testimony in Support of

SB 51 Judicial Branch Surcharge

March 10, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 51. This bill would make permanent the Judicial Branch surcharge authorized by the Legislature in 2010 to fund nonjudicial personnel.

The statutes regarding the surcharge are effective only to the end of the present fiscal year. The Judicial Branch FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget include revenue from the surcharge. Without passage of this bill, each budget will be reduced by approximately \$9.5 million.

The extension of the surcharge is important to continued funding of the courts. The surcharge will continue generating revenue necessary to help fund nonjudicial wages and salaries. The surcharge also allows the Legislature to use funds that otherwise would be appropriated to the Judicial Branch for other necessary expenditures, while helping to keep the courts open.

As introduced, the bill would have extended the sunset provision to July 1, 2017. The Senate Judicial Committee removed the sunset provision. The bill passed in the Senate with a vote of 34 to 6.

We ask that you consider this bill favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 51. I would be happy to answer your questions.