



**KANSAS BAR
ASSOCIATION**

TO: The Honorable John Barker, Chair
 And Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Joseph N. Molina
 On behalf of the Kansas Bar Association

RE: SB 51 – relating to court fees and costs, judicial branch
 surcharge fund

DATE: March 10, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Joseph Molina and on behalf of the Kansas Bar Association I provide this written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 51, relating to court fees and costs; judicial branch surcharge fund.

The KBA is acutely aware of the inadequate funding of most governmental agencies and institutions, and it is especially conscious of the continuing struggles facing the Judicial Branch. An adequately funded court system ensures a citizen's right to meaningful access to the courts. A properly funded judicial system also allows for the efficient application of the legal process for lawyers and litigants. If steps are not taken to extend the surcharge fee, the judicial branch could suffer a significant financial hardship and in turn subject Kansans to an inefficient court system.

The KBA recognizes and appreciates the steps taken by our Judicial Branch to deal with their fiscal situation. The Judicial branch continues to show sound fiscal discipline by continuing measures designed to weather difficult financial times. The additional money generated from last year's surcharge fee increase is one of the steps used by the Judicial Branch. However, to maintain the level of stability created from past budget saving measures the surcharge fee needs to be maintained.

On behalf of the Kansas Bar Association, I thank you for your time and would be available to respond to questions.

About the Kansas Bar Association:

The Kansas Bar Association (KBA) was founded in 1882 as a voluntary association for dedicated legal professionals and has more than 7,200 members, including lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals. www.ksbar.org