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Proponent, HB 2652

Feb. 17, 2016

Chairman Barker and House Judiciary Committee members,

Good afternoon.

As we have testified over the years to this committee, when it comes to selecting judges, Kansans for Life prefers both elections and the federal model of appointment over nominating commissions.

We find the commission method to be the least desirable for accountability and transparency.

Currently, the Governor is only offered a minimum of 2 names for district judges who are not elected, and under HB 2652, 3-5 names will be submitted to the Governor, and from a broader search area, when needed.

While awaiting a way to replace the nominating commission for district judges in approximately half the state, we support this bill because it potentially improves the pool of qualified candidates offered to the Governor.

Thank you,

Kathy Ostrowski
KFL Legislative Director