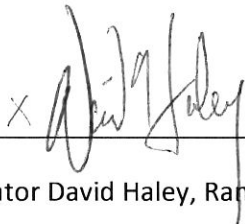


Minority Report – Kansas Judicial Branch

The Governor, in violation of KSA 75-3721, failed to pass the Judicial Branch Budget to the Legislature as required by law. Instead, the Governor deleted \$23.3 million in FY 2016 and \$29.9 million in FY 2017 from the Judicial Branch submitted budget. In doing so the Governor failed to fund the basic necessities for Judicial Branch operations; including, Judicial Retirement, KPERS contributions, health insurance, statutorily required step movement, and funding for the 27'th payroll in FY 2017 which is funded in all other agency budgets. The Governor also failed to adjust the budget for \$4.7 million in docket fee shortfalls which were intended by the 2014 Legislature to fully fund Judicial Branch operations.

While this recommendation does adjust for some of those deficiencies, there is no funding for Judicial Branch KPERS contributions and relies instead on the passage of a bill amending KPERS which has not yet been passed by the Legislature or signed by the Governor and the full effects of which are unknown. The recommendation also fails to fund judicial branch personnel at their required operational level and instead directs them to hold 120 positions vacant. The recommendation continues to fund the Judicial Branch by shifting funding from the Electronic Filing Management Fund to the Docket Fee Fund further delaying E-Courts implementation critical to achieving efficiencies within the Court System which are necessary to support a 21st century system of justice. Finally, Judicial Branch employees and Judges continue to be paid far below the levels of similar staff in our surrounding states. The recommendation while making some concessions to the Judicial Branch as a separate and co-equal branch of government continues the hollowing out of the Judiciary intended to cripple the effectiveness of the Judiciary and eliminate their ability to restrict unconstitutional Executive and Legislative over-reach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Haley", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a small "x" mark.

Senator David Haley, Ranking Minority Member