



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center

301 SW 10th

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

(785) 296-2256

House Judiciary

Representative Fred Patton, Chair

Testimony in Support of
SB 20 Judicial Branch Surcharge Extension
Stephanie Bunten, Chief Financial Officer

March 7, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 20, which would indefinitely authorize the Judicial Branch Surcharge to fund nonjudicial personnel.

Both the statutes regarding the surcharge and the Supreme Court Order authorizing the surcharge are effective only to the end of the present fiscal year. The Judicial Branch FY 2020 and FY 2021 budgets include revenue from the surcharge. Without passage of this bill, each budget will be reduced by approximately \$9 million.

The extension of the surcharge is important to continued funding of the Courts. The surcharge will continue generating revenue necessary to help fund employee 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.

We ask that you consider this bill favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 20. I am happy to answer questions.