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Chairman Kinzer, Vice Chair Patton, and House Judiciary Committee Members:

My name is Rick Newson and I am a Lieutenant in the Civil Division of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. I am offering this written testimony in support of Substitute SB 283. I have gathered information from several other Kansas Sheriff's and surrounding states. My research shows that the current average cost to serve civil documents for Kansas Sheriffs ranges between \$25 and \$30. Currently the person who files the document pays only \$5.00. The county tax payers make up the difference in the service of every civil document.

In Johnson County the cost per document in 2009 was \$30.90. Taxpayers had to make up the difference of \$25.90 on every civil document filed. Other testimony supporting this bill shows that in 2009 Sedgwick County tax payers were responsible for \$719,000.00 in expenses incurred by the sheriff in serving of civil process.

By passing this bill taxpayers will be relieved of a greater portion of the burden from paying for the service of civil process. The research I have completed shows that in 2011, among 35 Kansas counties, the service of civil process cost the tax payers \$3,221,060.00 which is using the lower end of the cost figures for the calculations. If the Sheriffs could have charged a \$15 service fee, tax payers would have saved \$1,610,329.00. Please keep in mind that the provisions in Substitute Bill 283 will not eliminate the entire burden, but it will reduce it significantly.

On the Plaintiff's side of the bill, it will increase the service fee they will pay. However, the fee can be included in the judgment and they will be able to recover their costs from the defendant. Whereas the tax payers have no means of recovering any expenses incurred in paying for the service of the civil documents.

I strongly encourage your support for this important bill to aid in the relief of the burden the tax payer has in covering the expense in the service of civil process.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Lieutenant Rick Newson
Johnson County Sheriff's Office