



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center
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Senate Judiciary

Honorable Senator Rick Wilborn, Chair

**Testimony in Support of
HB 2041 Judicial Branch Surcharge Extension
Stephanie Buntен, Chief Financial Officer**

March 20, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2041, which would extend the sunset on the Judicial Branch Surcharge two years from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019.

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 2018 and FY 2019 budgets include revenue from the surcharge. Without passage of this bill, each budget will be reduced by approximately \$8 to 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 non-judge 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 HB 2041. I am happy to answer questions.