



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS
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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Honorable Representative Marc Rhoades, Chair
Testimony in Support of
HB 2377 Judicial Branch Surcharge Extension

February 27, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2377, which would extend the sunset on the Judicial Branch Surcharge two years from June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2015.

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. Because of budget recommendations from the General Government Budget Committee, passage of this bill would fill a projected \$10 million funding gap.

The extension of the surcharge is important to continued funding of the Courts. The surcharge will continue generating revenue necessary to help fund nonjudicial 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. Even with the surcharge, the Judicial Branch will continue holding authorized positions open throughout FY 2014.

We ask that you consider this bill favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2377, and I would be happy to answer questions.