

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Kellie Warren, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 346-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Warren:

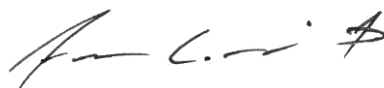
**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 239 by Senate Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 239 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 239 would specify that in any criminal proceeding, a vulnerable witness would have the right to be accompanied by a support person while giving testimony in the proceeding and may be accompanied by a certified critical incident response therapy K9 team instead of a support person. A support person would not be allowed to discuss the testimony of the vulnerable witness with any other witnesses or attempt to prompt or influence the testimony of the witness. Prior to the use of a certified critical incident response therapy K9 team, the court could conduct a hearing to verify the credentials of the team, that the team is appropriately insured, and that a relationship has been established between the witness and the team in anticipation of the testimony. The bill outlines the knowledge and training requirements for the certified critical incident response therapy K9 team.

The Office of Judicial Administration states enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on Judicial Branch operations because the bill's provisions could require an additional hearing if the witness wants to be accompanied by a certified critical incident response therapy K9 team, which would increase the time spent by judges and court employees researching and processing these cases. According to the Office, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated until the Judicial Branch has had an opportunity to operate under the bill's provisions. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 239 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Vicki Jacobsen, Judiciary