

House Standing Committee on Judiciary

Chair: Rep. John Barker

February 18, 2015

Vice Chair: Rep. Charles Macheers

Ranking Minority Member: John Carmichael

John Pickett, Director
Johnson County Law Library-Courthouse
Olathe, Kansas 66061

Testimony on Behalf of the Johnson County Law Library Board of Trustees in Opposition to House Bill 2112.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. The lawyer members of the law library board of trustees have asked me to testify in Opposition to House Bill 2112. The two judge members of our board have taken no position on this bill.

Attorney Registration Fees are collected annually by our county law library from Johnson County attorneys for the specific purpose of maintaining the library to enhance the practice of law for all attorneys in the county. We oppose any diversion of these local Attorney Registration Fees for another purpose.

HB 2112 would authorize the diversion of these fees to support the functions of the District Court whose funding is a state responsibility. These registration fees account for 60% of our library's revenue and are critical to the operation of our county law library, an important community resource. Over 20,000 persons use our library each year. We check out 1,300 volumes of legal research materials each year to over 700 attorneys. Attorneys, judges, and the public use our Westlaw legal research services, collection of legal handbooks and treatises, child support calculation software, word processing, fax service, conference rooms, copy machines, notary and reference services. We have an online catalog and an extensive library web page with links to Kansas legal forms and resources. Our reference services are provided to unrepresented persons seeking help finding legal forms, researching legal issues, understanding court procedures and finding an attorney.

If the purpose of this legislation is to address a particular situation in one county or several counties then the bill should be drafted for that narrow purpose. The current statutory scheme for county law library funding is working successfully and has a clear and singular purpose that should not be put at risk. We should not introduce an element of doubt as to the use of attorney registration fee funds. We ask you to reject HB 2112.