



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center

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March 24, 2021

Senate Committee on Transparency and Ethics
Testimony in Support of HB 2096

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District Court Clerk Specialist

Chairperson Bowers and committee members, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 2096. I am Krisena Silva, District Court Clerk Specialist in the Office of Judicial Administration.

Judicial branch employees are contacted at their homes by members of the public because of their positions with the courts. The Office of Judicial Administration appreciates and supports including judicial branch employees as parties that may request their identifying information be removed from applicable public databases. This language is needed. Examples of judicial branch employees being contacted by members of the public outside of work include:

- criminal defendants contacting court clerks at their homes to tell the defendant's side of the story or to complain about law enforcement, county attorneys, and judges;
- inmates in the custody of the Secretary of Corrections contacting judicial branch employees at their homes;
- prospective jurors contacting court clerks at their homes seeking to be excused from jury service;
- parents of juveniles contacting court clerks at their homes concerning their child's case;
- media contacting Office of Judicial Administration employees outside of work for positions on judicial matters; and
- instead of contacting their attorney, a party in a divorce proceeding visited a court clerk's home seeking an explanation of what a temporary order filed in their case meant.

These are just a few examples of judicial branch employees being contacted at their homes by individuals who have matters pending in the judicial system. Like other public sector

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employees identified in the bill and the underlying statute, the protection afforded those employees should be extended to all judicial branch judges and employees.

We respectfully request that the committee recommend HB 2096 favorably for passage.
Thank you.