

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hon. Rick Wilborn, Chairman
Hon. Julia Lynn, Vice Chairman
Hon. David Haley, R.M. Member

March 15, 2017
10:30 a.m.
Room 346-S

Chief Judge Daniel D. Creitz
Thirty-First Judicial District
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2197

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and this honorable committee for extending the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2197. I am Daniel D. Creitz, Chief Judge of the Thirty-First Judicial District and a member of the Executive Board of the Kansas District Judges Association (KDJA) serving as the KDJA Legislative Co-Chair with Judge James Fleetwood, Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District. The KDJA strongly supports passage of HB 2197, which relates to the statute that allows for calling prospective jurors to be seated for jury trials in district courts.

The bill removes the requirement that juror addresses be filed with the clerk of the court. Further, the bill would amend the law so that the list of prospective jurors not be subject to the open records law. I would ask the committee to amend the bill so that these changes will be applied retroactively.

We believe that passage of this bill will relieve the chilling effect upon jurors' willingness to serve when they know that their home addresses are subject to public record. It also protects jurors from unwanted pre-conviction or post-conviction contact by defendants in their homes.

The KDJA urges your favorable consideration of HB 2197 for the reasons stated. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of KDJA.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Dale Creitz
Chief Judge, Thirty-First Judicial District
KDJA Executive Board Member and Legislative Co-Chair

James Fleetwood
Chief Judge, Eighteenth Judicial District
KDJA Executive Board Member and Legislative Co-Chair