



DISTRICT COURT  
23rd Judicial District of Kansas  
(Ellis, Gove, Rooks & Trego Counties)



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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
HB 2227 PROPONENT WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

March 16, 2021

Chair Warren and members of the committee, I am the Chief Judge of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District which consists of Ellis, Rooks, Trego and Gove Counties. I submit this written only testimony today on behalf of the Kansas District Judges Association. Like the legislature, the courts of Kansas have had to adapt to the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic through innovation and hard work. Fortunately, you granted to the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court the authority through emergency powers to enact measures which provided the tools for the courts to administer justice to our citizens.

HB 2227 would extend this assistance through June 30, 2022 which will allow the courts the opportunity to process cases in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. To highlight one of the provisions of the bill, the use of audio-visual communication in court proceedings has enabled judges to increase the number of hearings scheduled in a day and has generated significant savings to litigants by reducing costs associated with travel. This bill would decouple the audio-visual component from the June 30, 2022 sunset provision.

As we hopefully transition out of this crisis, the passage of this bill will give to the Chief Justice the ability to continue to address any problems that may surface in the next year while securing the safety of the dedicated court staff. This bill is a reasonable measure to assist the courts in the administration of justice.

Your leadership in enacting HB 2227 will benefit Kansans and their judicial system. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

Glenn R. Braun  
Chief Judge, 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District