

SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

HELEN PEDIGO SPECIAL COUNSEL TO CHIEF JUSTICE Kansas Judicial Center 301 SW 10th Ave. Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

PHONE: (785) 368-6327 Fax: (785) 291-3274

HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE Honorable Representative Pat Colloton, Chair

NEUTRAL TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2419

Determination of Indigence January 18, 2012

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Office of Judicial Administration regarding House Bill 2419. I simply want to make the committee aware of the fiscal note on this bill.

In many cases, judges already interrogate defendants who request appointed counsel, regarding their financial situation. However, this bill would require interrogation in situations where that is not presently done, and may require increasing the scope of that interrogation, where it is presently done. This would require more time to be spent on each case, resulting in the need for part of a judicial position. The fiscal note submitted, totaling \$43,402 for the Judicial Branch, analyzed that time in terms of using a senior judge, the least expensive option.

Thank you for your time, and I'd be happy to respond to questions.

Attachment #