



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 28, 2013

**CONTACT**

Rochelle Chronister  
620.325.2026 ▪ rrc@terraworld.net

## **FORMER LEGISLATORS RESPOND TO GOVERNOR BROWNBACK'S EFFORT TO CONTROL KANSAS COURTS**

TOPEKA—Today, over 55 former legislators from across Kansas have called on Legislative Leaders to put aside partisan politics and defend the Kansas court system. The group, known as Traditional Republicans for Common Sense, made the request in advance of final legislative action on HB 2019, which would dismantle the current merit-based selection process and replace it with a “federal model” that would place sole power to fill judicial vacancies in the hands of Governor Brownback, with Senate confirmation. The Kansas House has voted 68-54 to recommend HB 2019 favorably for passage. Final Action on the bill should happen within the next 24-hours by the Kansas House.

“What we are witnessing is nothing short of a complete power grab by the Governor to further consolidate his power and inject politics into the judicial selection process, cutting out the public’s voice and jeopardizing fairness and impartiality of the courts,” said former Assistant Majority Leader and State Chair of the Republican Party Rep. Rochelle Chronister. “Legislative leaders and the Administration continue to dig themselves into a deeper and deeper hole, and voters aren’t blind to what’s happening. Stop digging.”

The Kansas Merit Selection System was put in place in 1956, following the “Triple Play”—a corrupt power play by Governor Fred Hull to appoint himself Chief Justice after his re-election loss. Since its passage, the Kansas Merit Selection System has not produced a single unqualified judge, nor have there been any cases of judicial misconduct from the bench. The Supreme Court Nominating Commission is a nine member body made up of attorneys and non-attorneys that screens applicants for judicial vacancies to ensure that only the most qualified are appointed.”

Chronister went on to say, “We have an obligation to keep our courts fair and impartial. The federal system is broken with many courts across America facing ‘judicial emergencies’ due to vacancies. Only one other state—New Jersey—uses this broken federal model, and they also face gridlock over judicial nominees. Changing the Kansas model will be bad for justice and bad for businesses struggling in this difficult economic climate. Is that really what Governor Brownback wants to leave as his legacy?”

For more information about Traditional Republicans for Common Sense, please visit [www.kscommonsense.com](http://www.kscommonsense.com).

###