

February 5, 2024

(Written Only Testimony)

House Committee on Elections,

Chairman Proctor, Vice Chair Waggoner, Ranking Minority Member Woodard and members of the Committee. My name is Benee Hudson and on behalf of all voters in Kansas, I want to thank you for the opportunity to offer opponent testimony for HB 2603.

Voting gives people like me some say about how government runs things or at least the appearance thereof. As a growing faction of the population in our country are feeling less confident in our elections and their outcomes, I find it breathtaking a bill like this has been brought forward. In an Ad Council Research Institute study released last year it found 66% of Conservatives and 46% of Independent voters lack confidence in elections.

Why would the citizens want a committee appointed by the already seated leaders? If the appointee is beholden to their appointer, what difference are we making? I see this as a way to divert scrutiny from the elected and push blame to the citizen's board. This bill does not give me a voice or seat at the table, it suppresses those who call for fairness and accountability. We should be focused on creating penalties for election fraud so there are consequences to breaking the law. Where are the efforts for that? We should be supporting investigations where mountains of affidavits signaling anomalies and infractions to Kansas Statutes on elections have been submitted. In turn, we should utilize those testimonies as a catalyst to put for legislation and statutes that actually make a difference.

I would appreciate the Committee voting in opposition of HB 2603.

Regards,

Benee Hudson  
Overland Park, KS  
Precinct Committeewoman  
Johnson County Poll Worker