

Date of Testimony Submittal: February 5, 2024

Bill Number: HB 2571

Disposition: Opponent

Written and possibly verbal testimony

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Name of interest represented: NAACP Kansas State Conference



Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2571.

On behalf of The NAACP Kansas State Conference, we stand unified in opposition against HB2571 which proposes that advanced voting ballots deposited in a remote box be considered provisional until verified by the county election office.

Specifically, we are opposed to such legislation because it would disenfranchise Kansas voters such as the disabled and elderly who rely upon advance voting for accessibility and convenience; increase administrative burden on election office staff and could undermine the efficiency and accuracy of the election process; potentially have a disparate impact on communities with limited resources and marginalized communities; burden voters by creating unnecessary confusion and uncertainty; and, significantly delay election results while waiting for verification from election officials.

Given the above concerns, there certainly appears to be no legitimate or valid reason for initiating this legislation other than to materially suppress or hinder voting rights for Kansans through unnecessary oversight. Our question: why does this appear to be a goal this committee is set on achieving? Please consider placing efforts in a more favorable way such as allowing Kansans to utilize the advance ballot process to ensure all have access to the voting process in a timely manner without undue restrictions on any community or election office. This is how we want to see our government work – for the people!

Glenda Overstreet Vaughn, DBA, MBA
Political Action Chair

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