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Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 209
House Committee on Elections
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Chairman Procter, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 209.

Kansas NEA believes that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. Senate Bill 209 reduces the amount of time that registered voters have to return their advance ballot, making it more difficult for Kansans to participate in our democracy. This bill is nothing more than an effort to disenfranchise voters.

In 2020, more than 30,000 advance ballots were received by the statutory deadline – the Friday following Election Day – according to information provided last year by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Katie Koupal. Senate Bill 209 would result in these votes getting thrown out.

As Secretary of State Scott Schwab indicated in his testimony to the Senate Transparency and Ethics Committee in 2021, “Ultimately, the 2020 elections reaffirmed Kansas is a voter friendly state where voters have multiple options for how to cast their ballot safely and securely.”

This bill is unnecessary and would cause more harm than good for Kansas elections. We urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 209.