



February 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Elections

As President and on behalf of The Topeka (KS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, we submit this written testimony and stand in opposition to HB 2572, imposing personal delivery restrictions on individuals delivering advance voting ballots on behalf of other voters.

Our beloved organization, The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for profit corporation established in 1945 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other people of African ancestry (linksinc.org).

Our members include varied generations of African Americans who take pride in embracing and sharing their heritage by connecting with each other; providing over 1 million documented hours of community service annually in transforming communities through service; and in embracing and respecting the legacy of our culture which includes protecting the vote through voter empowerment.

As part of our service in transforming communities, we provide grassroots voter assistance to our community to encourage voter registration, advance voting, and early voting to ensure that every person is afforded the opportunity to submit a ballot that is timely delivered and counted.

We oppose this bill because it is void of a real purpose for implementation and appears to only add burden to the administrative voting process for election staff. Further, it could increase privacy and security concerns about photographing individuals with their ballots when the current process already requires a signature of the person delivering the ballot on the ballot envelope and at the election office. Additionally, it burdens voters by creating unnecessary confusion and uncertainty and most importantly would have a significantly adverse impact on individuals who would otherwise be willing to assist others in delivering ballots.

Let's do better in ensuring that the voting process is an open and efficient one without imposing unnecessary restrictions that could adversely impact the process. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Monice Crawford, President

The Topeka (KS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated