



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 2571, requiring that all advance ballots deposited in a remote ballot box be considered provisional ballots until verified by the county election office.

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 enhances disenfranchising Kansas voters, particularly our vulnerable populations such as the disabled and elderly who rely upon advance voting for accessibility and convenience; increases administrative burden on election office staff and could undermine the efficiency and accuracy of the election process; the bill potentially has a disparate impact on communities that our organization serves (those with limited resources and marginalized communities); it burdens voters by creating unnecessary confusion and uncertainty; and, it will no doubt delay actual election results while awaiting verification. In addition, the bill dilutes the purpose for having remote ballot boxes, which is to ensure actual ballots are counted for election day results, without delay.

Please vote in opposition to carrying this bill forward. 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