



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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February 8, 2024
Opponent for HB 2572
Oral in-person Testimony

Chairman Proctor and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am here today to share our opposition for HB 2572.

There are many Kansan seniors and individuals with disabilities who are home bound, have mobility challenges, or have dexterity challenges who ask for people they trust to assist them with voting by mail.

Today this can include assisting the voter by taking the ballot to a mailbox, post office, remote ballot drop box, or returning the ballot to a county election office or polling place on election day. The current process allows the voter to have several options that provide both convenience and utility and give them the power to choose the method of transmittal that makes the most sense based on their situation and timing.

Under the provisions of this bill, it will now require the person with a disability to ask their friend to drive to the county election office, go inside, present photo identification, and be photographed by county election office. The new process required in HB 2572 is much more onerous for everyone involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our opposition to HB 2572. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.