

Paris Raite
Resident of Lawrence, Kansas
Opponent Testimony of SB 209
For the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

February 16th, 2023

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, I am opposed to SB 209 and any restrictions on dropboxes. Advanced ballots are popular here in Kansas. I personally have used an advanced ballot for all primary and general elections since I started voting when I turned 18. It's an easy and convenient way for any Kansan to cast their vote, and the three day grace period adds to accessibility for all Kansans, rural or not, working class or not, all ages, etc. In the 2020 election I remember specifically almost forgetting to turn in my ballot, turning it into my mailbox just a day before the election. Because of the three day grace period, my vote was still counted. I'm a person who takes voting very seriously and am often the person reminding friends to vote. Although I am passionate about voting, everyday life took over and I almost forgot to vote. Because of the three day grace period, I did not have to worry.

I wasn't the only one who almost lost their vote, if this bill had been in effect in 2020 over 30,000 ballots would have been flushed down the drain. It's time to stop targeting advanced ballot drop boxes and instead focus on making voting more accessible to all Kansans.

I urge you to please vote no on SB 209 and continue to allow safe and accessible voting by mail for all future Kansas elections. Thank you for your time.

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