

## **SB 209**

### **Proponent Testimony**

#### **Written Only**

Michelle Eagleman, Lawrence

#### **Senate District 3**

#### **Honorable Chairman Thompson, Vice Chair Rick Kloos, and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on an issue that is of grave concern to everyone person who takes an active role in their government. Some say participation in any organization is 20/80. Twenty percent of the people do 80% of the work. These are people who get no pay but who run for precinct committee person, show up at meetings, volunteer to do canvassing, or poll working because they know how important it is. But the most dedicated are often the most discouraged. In the face of so much controversy, rule changes, lack of transparency, and vilifying of honest questions, those who work the hardest are wondering: What is the point of trying to make changes if votes don't count? It is a rhetorical question. What is the point indeed—isn't that THE point in a democratically elected constitutional republic—that we choose our own leaders?

Senate bill 209 is a small step in the right direction. Most of the controversy over the 2020 election had to do with drop boxes and mail-in and advance voting. Drop boxes are a cause of controversy. Period. The documentary *2000 Mules* gave a startling example of how these can be abused. Multiple ballots being put in boxes multiple times by multiple people in multiple cities. The ostensible reason for the drop boxes was covid. Covid is not an issue. Even if it was, a virus is not a reason to redesign our election system making it less secure. Covid was an excuse and it has been milked till we are all dry and done with it. There is now absolutely no justification for the drop boxes. These are American elections for goodness sake. If these drop boxes cannot be eliminated completely, it goes without saying that all ballots should be in the box by 7pm on election day. No exceptions. That is a no-brainer. This is our country and only the best practices should be followed.

I was an election worker on election day in my county. I watched hundreds of voters come through the line last November. Each one very concerned that they do everything right so their vote would count. We even had a man who insisted on staying and watching the ballots be taken from the machine. People care. Every vote cast illegally is one of those citizens whose vote is effectively canceled. Fraud disenfranchises citizens. Fraud negates a vote. It is for these reasons I wholeheartedly support SB209.

Thank you,

Michelle Eagleman

Lawrence, KS