

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

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Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Increased Violence at Election Polling Places

The outcome of this bill passing would be many new voters being turned away from polling places, not because of their own fault, but due to the fault and error of people they have never met. Election workers would face the fury and rage of large numbers of people if even one website was determined to not be “safe enough” according to one person. The social impact of multiple eligible voters turned away from polling places would fuel conspiracy and discord.

Perception of Partisanship This gives one politician the sole power to pick and choose which political groups get to register voters. There is no committee hearing or appeals. Even a purely neutral secretary of state would appear to be targeting certain groups if this power is exercised, as many of these websites are run by one party or another. The perceived harm of people having their data stolen could surely be mitigated in ways that do not give an appearance of vote interference.

Vague Language and No Oversight This short bill leaves the standards of data security (a constantly changing field) and what would constitute acceptable standards up to one person, with no method of challenging those standards from any party involved, and no committee to determine what those standards should be.

Conclusion

HB 2438 Does the Opposite of What it Claims to Solve - Less Safety and More Partisan Control

This is a short bill summarized as a question— Do committee members believe Kansans who attempt to register to vote be allowed to, or should their vote not count based on the alleged “data insecurity” of those who engage them in the process? When one’s right to vote is meddled with at the sole discretion of the secretary of state the perception of partisan rigging is increased, not decreased. I recommend this committee oppose HB 2438 and count all eligible citizens’ votes.