

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

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OPPONENT - HB2438

written only testimony

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Chair Proctor and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my profound and unequivocal opposition to House Bill 2438 (HB2438). This piece of proposed legislation, under the guise of electoral security, is in fact deeply detrimental to the foundational principles of democracy and the legitimate interests of Kansas residents. Its primary effect would be to disenfranchise voters, thereby undermining the very representative government we are sworn to uphold.

The fundamental role of legislators is not to erect barriers to civic participation, but to ensure that every eligible citizen has a free, fair, and accessible means to cast their ballot and register their voice. The assertion that we must restrict the ability of citizens to participate in elections runs directly counter to this responsibility.

Currently, Kansas utilizes multiple secure, proven, and efficient online voter registration tools. These systems are robust, have been audited, and are demonstrably effective in expanding access without compromising security. They ensure that a broader range of individuals—including those with mobility issues, those with non-traditional work schedules, or students temporarily away from home—can safely and securely register to vote. My kids used these tools to become registered voters when they turned 18. These tools provide essential flexibility in the registration process, a flexibility that is necessary for a modern, mobile populace. The overarching objective of this committee and this legislature should be singular: to increase participation in our democracy. By maximizing turnout and making registration easier, we allow for the authentic representation of the diverse populace within our great state.

Instead of focusing legislative efforts on facilitating democratic participation and addressing the genuine needs of our constituents, the proposed bill, HB2438, appears to be a transparent and cynical attempt to manipulate the electoral system. The timing of this bill is particularly telling. By seeking to fundamentally alter established voter registration rules—rules that have served us well—immediately before a critical election cycle, the intent appears to be nothing less than the suppression of voter turnout and the gerrymandering of the electorate itself. Such actions erode public trust in government and transform the electoral process from an exercise in representation into a strategic game of political advantage.

The residents of Kansas are discerning and are not easily fooled. They understand the true motives behind this bill. They see it not as a measure of election integrity, but as a deliberate

political maneuver designed to silence voices that may not align with a particular political agenda.

For the health of our democracy, for the integrity of our elections, and for the sake of true representation, I unequivocally oppose House Bill 2438. I implore each of you, as guardians of the public trust and proponents of democratic ideals, to heed the widespread opposition and cast a decisive negative vote on this measure. Do not restrict the vote; work to expand it.

Christopher Newlin
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