

HB2016 Proponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I urge your support for HB2016, which permits the use of online obituary notices from funeral homes as a valid source for removing deceased voters from the rolls. This is a practical and necessary step toward maintaining accurate voter registration records.

I have personally witnessed the challenges of ensuring voter rolls remain up to date. My father-in-law passed away in Arizona, yet his name remained on the Kansas voter rolls for well over a year. Even though a notice was placed in a Kansas newspaper, it never reached election officials due to his out-of-state passing. Thankfully, I caught the mistake and was able to have it corrected, but many others may not have that opportunity. Keeping deceased individuals on voter lists creates unnecessary vulnerabilities and diminishes confidence in the election process.

This bill provides election officials with an additional, reliable tool to help keep voter rolls current. As fewer families choose to publish obituaries in newspapers due to cost, online funeral home notices have become a primary way to share this information. Recognizing these notices as an official source is a simple, commonsense update that will improve election integrity while easing the burden on both families and election officials.

I encourage the committee to advance this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue
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Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman