

Written-Only Opposition Testimony for **SB 314**
For the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kristen Blackton, Private Citizen
January 28, 2026

Dear Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristen Blackton, and I am writing to you today from Johnson County in opposition to SB 314. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Upon reading the bill, I had several questions immediately come to my mind, which leads me to my first point of opposition: ambiguity. Who is deciding what counts as “advocating” for or against proposed amendments? Many government officials and employees, including those employed by public schools, receive questions about ballot initiatives as a part of their jobs. This puts these people in murky legal territory if they were to answer said questions in a way that could be interpreted as “advocacy.” I was a teacher for ten years, and my students would regularly ask me questions about current events, including topics that veered into the political. According to this bill, I would not have been able to answer questions without fearing a misdemeanor would go on my record. This seems like a gross violation of our first amendment freedom of speech!

Furthermore, how would this bill affect government entities’ ability to inform voters about constitutional changes? Would providing that information be considered “advocacy”? Once again, our first amendment freedom of speech is at risk, and government agencies would also be, intentionally or unintentionally, restricted from imparting educational resources to their constituents.

This bill appears to seek to silence people and restrict education about important potential constitutional changes. For that reason, I do not support it, and I urge you to vote NO on SB 314.

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Blackton
Shawnee, KS