



March 11, 2021

My name is Elizabeth Patton and I am the State Director for Americans for Prosperity- Kansas. Today we are testifying in support of HCR 5015. This Resolution highlights some of the egregious elements of HR. 1 and we appreciate the State Legislature taking a stand against such infringements on the American people. Members of Congress and other public officials have an obligation to ensure that everyone can exercise their rights but policies in H.R.1 erode those very protections. Foundational freedoms erode when we protect them for one set of people but not another. Our rights are bound together. If we protect them for me but not for thee, we risk forfeiting the robust liberties that are the foundation of America.

Congress should not rewrite the rules of engagement in a way that chills free speech. Americans must be free to speak and associate freely, without politicians holding a veto on who gets to participate and who does not. Accountability is for politicians, transparency is for government, and privacy is for people. H.R. 1 achieves none of these and HCR 5015 speaks to the flagrant disregard of civil liberties within that piece of federal legislation.

HCR 5015 appropriately condemns the overreach of the Federal government. Historical examples demonstrate privacy has played a vital role achieving progress including the unsigned Federalist Papers that helped persuade a new nation to endorse the Constitution; and the cancel culture that pervades our society currently threatens civil discourse. A partisan election commission would decrease public confidence in election integrity. A partisan FEC is chilling to political speech and speech about elections in addition to other concerns.

H.R. 1 would exacerbate the problems in our civic life by closing off even further what many people already see as a rigged system in which politicians and special interests team up at the expense of everyone else.

We need a more vibrant civil society, not a stifled one.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton

State Director

Americans for Prosperity-Kansas