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Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 445
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
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Chairman Olson, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 445.

Kansas NEA believes that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. As such, we oppose Senate Bill 445 because it makes it more difficult for Kansans to participate in an election using an advance voting ballot.

This bill not only prohibits the use of ballot boxes existing off the premises of the county election office, but it also requires that the drop box be located inside of a building. As we experienced during the 2020 election, the COVID-19 pandemic required voters to exercise caution when returning their ballots. Requiring someone to get out of their vehicle, go inside a public building, and potentially stand in line puts them at an unnecessary risk.

If there is anything we have learned from the past two years, it should be that it's critical that we have an election system that can provide flexibility in the event of an emergency, but also one that can accommodate all voters. There are many needs within each community to provide many opportunities for the use of advance voting ballots. We should want a system that is easy, convenient, and as accessible as possible.

Kansas NEA urges the committee to oppose Senate Bill 445.