

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2056

House Committee on Elections

Logan Byrd - Private Resident

January 25, 2023

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the chance to voice my opinion on this bill. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2056.

My name is Logan Byrd and I am a student at Wichita State University. Expanding access to voting is one of the most important factors to upholding our democracy, and with that comes the intricacies of mailing in a ballot. Coming from Wichita, a more urban city with many polling locations, it historically has not been a difficult feat for me, an able-bodied person to get to my voting location and cast my ballot. The same cannot be said for a lot of my friends and family, who live rurally, are immunocompromised, or simply cannot make time to get to their polling place to cast their ballots.

Today, I want you to consider your constituency that may be in the same boat. While many may think that mailing in their ballots a few days before election day means their ballot will arrive on time, most know that is not always the case. Mail is notoriously slow, especially in rural areas, and taking away the 3-day grace period for counting ballots would mean disenfranchising a lot of voters.

To reiterate, I ask you to please keep the 3-day grace period for mail-in ballots. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,
Logan Byrd