

Roxana Arjon
Stanford University Graduate from Dodge City, KS
Opponent Testimony of HB 2056: Concerning Elections, Relating to Advance Voting Ballots

Chairman Proctor, Esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Roxana Arjon, and I am a Kansas native. I have voted in every single election. Let me rephrase. I have *attempted* to vote in every single election in the 4 years since I became eligible to vote. I say attempted because I frequently vote by mail (VBM), which means my vote has frequently fallen victim to the pitfalls of VBM. I offer my testimony in opposition to the passage of HB 2056 and how its passage will disenfranchise college students.

Like many other college students who come from SWKS, I did not stay in my hometown to attend college. As you all might know, there is no four-year college in my part of the state. I have the added issue that I used to go school out-of-state at Stanford University in California, which means that whenever it's election time, I had to VBM. I didn't have the privilege to return home and vote in person or vote in office early. There was no other option for me and many other students like me.

I have been registered to vote in Kansas since I turned 18 and have had to vote by mail in almost every single general election that has occurred in addition to the Democratic Primary in 2020. For those of you keeping count, I *had* to vote by mail in 5 out of the 9 elections in which I was eligible to vote. According to my voter record, I only voted in 3 of those 5 elections despite filling out my ballot, signing and stamping my envelope, and returning it in the mail.

What is ironic, is that in 2019, I was working with the Stanford Law School and looking into vote-by-mail practices in California and hearing from renown VBM experts. It was during this class that I learned my voice was unheard and my vote was uncounted in the 2018 general election, because my ballot was received late. It didn't matter that I was focused on classes and midterm exams or that I needed some time to inform myself about the candidates on the ballot. I had returned my ballot a week before the deadline, but it was too late.

Although I am currently back home and can vote in person, I will once again *have* to VBM in the upcoming election cycle as I will be at the University of Kansas getting my MPA. I will once again *have* to prioritize my education and potentially have my vote uncounted like many other college students. That does not mean that I will give up. I will fill out my ballot, stamp my envelope, return it as soon as I can, and hope that it gets counted. But that might not happen if HB 2056 passes. I and many others may find out once again that our voices were left unheard.

Thank you all for your time. I hope you take my testimony into consideration in your decision.