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Resident of Wichita, KS
Opponent of HB 2057
For the Committee on Elections

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Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I appreciate you all giving me the time today to speak in regard to House Bill 2057. I am a resident of Wichita in House District 85, and I am opposed to this bill.

As a recent graduate of Wichita State University, I have seen firsthand how all communities, including students, benefit from the accessibility of a ballot drop box. I have seen students, faculty, and members of the Fairmount community whose lives have been seriously altered by the effects of COVID-19 *still* use their right to vote by reaching locations to drop off their ballots.

However, the utility of drop boxes are becoming unnecessarily confusing to Kansans. Young and seasoned voters are continuously thrown obstacles to overcome in order to voice their concerns to anyone in this building. The limiting of ballot boxes per residents cannot possibly be seen as beneficial to a voter or their representative.

Over-regulating a simple yet vital resource to our democracy is not going to improve the state of our elections. Our elections are fair, lawful, and secure. As more young and disenfranchised voters finally learn to voice themselves through their vote, it seems as if more restrictions and misinformation are thrown their way. This is no way to maintain equitable elections in the greatest state.

Rather than compromising the integrity of a voting method that has been deemed as safe and secure by our very own Secretary of State, I urge you to question the issues voters actually face during our elections: extreme wait times, turning away voters who are in line at 7pm, misinformation, extreme restrictions on voter registration, and the overwhelming dismissal of young voters trying to make voting a simple task for all parties.

Rather than trying to hinder each other, the legislature should be trying to ease the burdens of those who put them in this building. I, myself, along with thousands of voters, put trust in elected officials who are not misguided by false claims and trust the process that granted them the authority to improve our state's elections.

Before voting on this bill, I strongly encourage you all to imagine yourselves as your constituents. Imagine yourself as an overworked college student during a pandemic, a member of a history overlooked neighborhood, or an individual with limited mobility. How would it feel if your representative made it even harder for you to vote?

As one of those constituents, I ask you all to follow the facts and vote no on HB2057. Thank you again for allowing me to voice my concern and provide a new perspective.