

Donnavan Dillon
Private Citizen
HB 2057 - Opponent
Written Only

Good morning to all, and thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today.

My name is Donnavan Dillon. I was born and raised in Kansas, living in Lawrence for most of my life. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Kansas pursuing a double major in political science and sociology. Outside of school, I work two jobs, am prepping for the LSAT, and participate in club and community events at every opportunity. Because of this, I am fairly busy, making staying politically engaged relatively difficult. This is a reality for the 165,000 students enrolled in Kansas Universities.

For college students managing a full course load, studying, jobs, clubs, and social life mean we are busy from morning till night. This makes dropboxes and other forms of advanced voting the best means of voting for students in Kansas and across the country. It gives students a larger window to vote, allows both in-state and out-of-state students to fulfill their civic duties, and is more accessible to those with busy lifestyles to participate in the democratic process.

41% of Kansans voted by advanced ballot in the 2022 election, 1 in 3 Kansans voted by mail in 2020, and every county safely utilized advanced ballot drop-off options. Restricting advanced voting could seriously impede citizens' ability to vote. Dropbox voting is used by working adults, busy students, and the elderly who can't easily make it to polling locations. Drop boxes were also responsible for keeping thousands of Kansas safe while exercising their civic duty these past elections.

By decreasing the number of dropboxes and the time they're open, therefore making it a long distance to reach for many, you are not just disenfranchising tens of thousands of college students who are the future of this state but also the rural farmer in western Kansas whose crops put food on our tables and the single mother in Johnson county who can only vote on weekends because she has to work weekdays. HB 2057 goes directly against voting trends, data, and, most importantly, the Kansas people. This bill takes a sacred practice core to the function of our democracy and ensures fewer people can access the right to vote.

Kansans deserve the right to cast their ballot safely without unnecessary state government interference. The legislature should focus on passing pro-voter laws that empower our local election officials to respond to the needs of voters in our communities- not restricting voting methods that we've safely used for decades. Last year voter suppression laws went nowhere, so stop bringing the same stale legislation back and spend time crafting legislation constituents support.

This is why I urge you to vote against HB 2057. Stand with the working-class families who fuel Kansas's economy, students who represent Kansas's future, and the elderly who have made Kansas the great state it is today by protecting our voting rights and access to drop boxes.