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Written Testimony – Opponent
House Bill 2571
House Committee on Elections
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Chairman Proctor, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of House Bill 2571.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization that represents educators across the state of Kansas, and we believe that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting.

Our members are comprised of certified classroom teachers as well as educational support staff, including but not limited to social workers, paraprofessionals, janitors, and bus drivers. It is not uncommon for these professionals to rely on advance ballots to participate in our democracy because of time constraints resulting from their professional workday responsibilities on Election Day.

Remote ballot boxes make it easier for registered voters to return their advance ballots with the confidence and peace of mind that their vote will be counted just as if they had voted in person on Election Day.

Not everyone has the time to drive to their county election office to return their advance ballot in person. Additionally, not everyone can trust the postal service to deliver their ballots on time. They do, however, trust that by returning their ballots using a remote ballot box, their vote will be counted.

We believe House Bill 2571 would discourage voters from participating in our democracy by advance ballot. We believe it is unnecessary and would do more harm than good for the Kansas elections. As such, we urge the committee to oppose House Bill 2571.