



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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February 8, 2024
Opponent for HB 2571
Oral in-person Testimony

Chairman Proctor and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am here today to share our opposition for HB 2571.

HB 2571 would create additional processes and delay the processing of any ballot returned by remote ballot box. This also has the potential to delay election results by significantly increasing the number of provisional ballots that are not added to the preliminary vote totals until the county canvass.

Many individuals with disabilities utilize advance voting by mail and also appreciate the convenience of remote ballot boxes. The bill creates a new verification process before a ballot returned via remote ballot box can be counted. The verification process required under this bill will undoubtedly cause ballots cast by Kansans with disabilities to not be counted.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns about HB 2571. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.