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## STATE OF KANSAS

February 12, 2024

### **Testimony on HB2616 (Written Only / Neutral)**

House Committee on Elections

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2616.

HB2616 would have the effect of expanding the pool of available poll workers for elections and allowing certain individuals the opportunity to participate in the election process, even if they are not eligible to vote in Kansas. HB2616 does this by providing that the standard elector status criteria for election board workers shall not prohibit a member of the military, a military dependent, or a full-time post-secondary education student from being an election board worker.

Currently, KSA 25-2804 requires election board judges and clerks to be qualified electors (at least 18 years of age, citizen, resident of the state), with an exception that certain 16-17 years olds may still serve, even though not registered to vote.

HB2616 is unclear as to:

- (1) the necessity of U.S. Citizenship for the military, dependents, and students; and
- (2) how to determine political affiliation for these individuals to comply with the mandatory staffing partisan balance.

The Secretary of State or county election officer would need to develop procedures to verify an individual's military, dependent, or student status. This could be self-identification signed under penalty of perjury or submitting copies of current appropriate identification, e.g. military or student ID card.

Respectfully submitted,

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