

1/30/2024

[SB 368](#)

Opposing - strongly

Devin Penny

Representing self

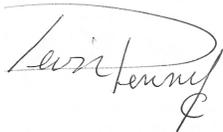
Chairman Thompson and members of the committee,

I am a physician in the ViaChristi system in Wichita and teach at Kansas University- College of Medicine, Kansas College of Osteopathic medicine and my main presence is as faculty at the Family Medicine residency program. I am in strong opposition to the senate bill 368. We can all agree there are some major obstacles in our current system. The 2016 presidential election that offered two candidates that were ranked last polls before the primaries sent me on a look for something better. I was not the first to go on such a search. In fact it was first recorded in 1433 by a mathematician, Llull, who has as of yet not been outdone. Llull recommended what has been dubbed the Condorcet method. This is one, of several, systems of voting that require a Preferred vote rather than a Plurality vote. Meaning it would require a ballot with a list of preferences, one that could be called "ranked-choice". This science has been known since at least the 1400's?! It is simply "easier" to do what everyone else does; Plurality vote. In medicine it is rare that the easy answer is the best. In fact it often does harm.

I do not expect to make you a believer by my letter, however, and that is not even the issue with this bill. This bill is a solution killer. Removing a tool from the state of Kansas so it will no longer be able to be examined. Please do not shut down the discussion. As we seek better ways, if there is no rank choice ballot possible then a line of thought will be extinguished and for what? Please do not be a tool in the onslaught of disunity. Discussion over the merits of our system versus another are the seeds of improvement and of unity. To hopefully get closer to where we all want to be. This bill does not provide anything but silences that discussion due to an overgeneralization of what "ranked-choice" is.

I am not asking you to consider ranked choice voting today but I am asking to not blindly strike out of fear at something that may provide a catalyst for the good of Kansas in the future. Even if it is just discussing its merits and it is never implemented it will drive us to consider the mathematics of voting!

If your desire is truly to support a system that represents the people's preferences and eliminates the ability of candidates to manipulate the results, I plead with you to keep the conversation open and vote down SB 368.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devin Penny" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Devin Penny