

Paris Raite  
Resident of Lawrence, Kansas  
Opponent Testimony of HB2057  
For the House Elections Committee

January 31st, 2023

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed HB 2057. I am a resident of Lawrence in House District 44 and I am opposed to HB 2057 because of accessibility issues.

When I read this bill I immediately thought of all of the working class people out there who take advantage of Kansas' ballot box accessibility. Since I've been voting, I've used mail in ballots frequently. It was the best option for me as I went to school full time on top of working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a care home during the pandemic, sometimes working 16 hour shifts regularly to bring in income. Luckily during election season I knew that this kind of schedule wouldn't get in the way of voting, something I strongly value, because ballot boxes here are open 24/7. I'm a forgetful person and with a full time work and school schedule I needed to have flexibility to vote, that includes having evening and weekend opportunities. If this bill were around then, I wouldn't have that security as a voter. Having drop boxes open only during office hours would leave so many working class ballots behind.

Humans error. It's a fact of life. It is totally plausible that someone would forget their ballot till the last moment through the course of day to day life. Luckily here in Kansas we provide multiple opportunities for any Kansan to get their ballot in. Let's keep it that way. I urge you to please vote no on HB 2057 and continue to allow safe and accessible voting by mail for all future Kansas elections. Thank you for your time.

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