

**March 7, 2023 3:30pm**

**Testimony to the House Elections Committee**

**NAME:** Ricardo Rios

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

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**BILL NUMBER:** SB 208, removal of ballot boxes

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 208. I urge all members of the House Elections Committee to oppose SB208.

I believe Senate Bill 208 is a harmful bill because it increases the risk of COVID-19 exposure to populations that are immunocompromised, reduces accessibility for communities, and will cause delays in turning in a ballot. As a resident of Finney County, we should not be reducing access to voting because it makes it harder for voters to cast their ballot, and for people who don't have money or transportation. SB 208 is a bill that goes against the civil rights of Kansas voters, and that I am not okay with. The legislature should not be decreasing means of making the job duties for election offices to process and collect ballots harder for election officials and on the other hand turning away voters from exercising their right to vote. This legislature has tried passing Voter Suppression bills time after time, and as a citizen, I find it deeply troubling that we continue down this path of voter suppression bills like SB 208. Voter suppression undermines the very foundation of democracy by restricting certain groups from exercising their right to vote. As an elected official, it is your duty to protect and uphold democratic values, and voting against a voter suppression bill such as SB 208 would demonstrate your commitment to those values. I can, and so can many Kansans I know, agree that our public opinion proves that we are against voter suppression bills like SB 208. I will show up time and time again for my community, because our right to vote is a sacred tool of representation and power.

Thank you all for reading my testimony. I urge all members of the House Elections Committee to oppose SB208.

Ricardo Rios

Kansas Citizen

Holcomb, Kansas