



Lauren Tice Miller
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Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 208
House Elections
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Chair Proctor, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 208.

A core value of the Kansas NEA is Democracy. We believe that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. As such, we oppose Senate Bill 208 because it significantly reduces accessibility to voting with an advance ballot by eliminating ballot boxes.

Senate Bill 208 not only makes it more difficult for all eligible Kansas voters to participate in an election using an advance voting ballot, but it significantly limits the participation of our members. It is not uncommon for our members to have a workday that expands the same hours as the business day of their county election office. We also know that the United States Postal Service is also not the most reliable in delivering mail on time. Eliminating ballot boxes entirely reduces when and how our educators who participate by advance ballot can return their ballots. It also reduces assurances that advance ballots have been received on time and will be counted.

If there is anything we have learned from the past few years, it should be that it's critical that we have an election system that can provide flexibility and accessibility. There are many needs within each community to provide many opportunities for the use of advance voting ballots. Kansas NEA believes there should be accommodations made to make it easier for all eligible Kansas voters to participate, not restrictions put in place discouraging participation. We should want a system that is easy, convenient, and as accessible as possible.

Kansas NEA urges the committee to oppose Senate Bill 208.