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Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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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 Proctor & members of the Kansas House Elections Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 208. I oppose SB 208 because it infringes upon my rights as a voter of the state of Kansas.

I am a working class latina-american resident of Garden City, Kansas and it is important for me and my Latino community of Western Kansas to have their voting rights protected. I believe SB208 will limit access to my community to exercise their right to vote and that includes having the option to drop off a ballot at the nearest ballot box, which is why I oppose SB208. Limiting access to voting in Kansas is particularly harmful to working-class minorities because they are already disproportionately affected by barriers to voting, such as lack of transportation and inflexible work schedules. I do not think this governing body should limit access to voting, but rather make the voting process quicker and accessible across areas in the city and county. I support having ballot boxes where necessary to increase accessibility, not decrease accessibility. Furthermore, it is an inconvenience to lessen ballot boxes, and I don't want to wait in long lines to vote. When a bill such as SB208 exists, it grows my distrust for the democratic process of elections. If restricting access to ballot boxes becomes a partisan issue by republican officials, I believe this bill will further partisan divisions and undermine our free and fair elections. Nothing about SB208 is about free and fair elections.

Please oppose SB208 and focus on legislation that increases participation. Thank you for your time.

Haydie Gonzalez

Kansas Citizen

Garden City, Kansas