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Testimony the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

EMAIL ADDRESS: **ldmark61@gmail.com**

BILL NUMBER: **SB208, *Restricting the number of ballot boxes.***

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

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Chair Thompson & Members of the Committee,

I write again, now to voice my opposition to bill SB208, restricting the number of ballot boxes.

If we were truly committed to democracy, the kinds of elections bills we'd be discussing would be those that remove barriers to voting and restore confidence for the public in their election officials and elected representatives — people who take oaths to uphold our Constitution and commit to every citizen that their vote will be counted.

I am blessed to live in Johnson County which has a deep commitment to serving its citizens, to excellence, and to democracy! The county had already expanded access to ballot drop boxes prior to the pandemic and added significantly more numbers at the height of Covid-19. Then Election Commissioner, Connie Schmidt, worked with the JoCo Library and Sheriff's Department to identify locations that would be secure and still easily accessible. This was a responsible and caring move then and remains the sensible and right policy today. With the continuing struggles USPS has in delivering mail in a timely manner and SB209's desire to eliminate mailed ballots grace period, why would we further reduce the opportunity for every vote to be counted?

SB208 is not pro-democracy. Vote no on SB208.

Leslie D. Mark

Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7