

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEITH ESAU
14TH DISTRICT

TESTIMONY ON HB2256

Chairwoman Bowers, Vice-Chairman Fitzgerald and Members of the Committee:

I appear before you in support of HB 2256. If enacted, the bill would address 2 concerns that I have heard about from Kansas voters related to activates at polling places on election day.

The first problem brought to my attention happened in the last election cycle. At several polling sites in the Wichita area, voters were approached by people asking them to sign recall petitions and had tables with displays that were arguably opposed to a certain party, even though they did not mention any candidates or issues that were currently on the ballot. This bill includes the collections of signatures, regardless of whether it is related to the current ballot, to be considered electioneering and subject to the 250-foot distance rule.

The bill also provides an exception to the distance rule once a public road or highway is crossed. This way, a person living across the street from a polling place would no longer have to remove the signs from their yard on election day. The purpose of the electioneering statute is to prevent people from being approached as they go from their cars to the entrance of the polling site. Signs across the street do not get in between the voter's car and the entrance.

I urge your support of HB 2256.

Representative Keith Esau

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Esau".