

**SCOTT SCHWAB**  
Secretary of State



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## STATE OF KANSAS

**Testimony on HB2042 (written)**

House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee  
Monday, January 28, 2019

Chairman Jennings and members of the Committee:

I offer this testimony today on behalf of the Office of Secretary of State in support of HB2042, removing the authority of the Secretary of State to prosecute election crimes.

For several years, local officials did not prosecute accusations of voter fraud due to limited resources and higher profile crimes. The reasoning was understandable, pragmatic and served as the basis for the previous secretary to seek prosecutorial power.

The Attorney General was elected by the residents of Kansas to serve as the chief litigator and chief law enforcement officer for the State of Kansas. Continuity is essential to any legal defense of the State. HB2042 would streamline such litigation in Kansas by allowing the Attorney General to prosecute cases of voter fraud. Secretary Schwab is a businessman, not an attorney, and believes the limited legal resources of the Office would be more appropriately applied to administering the constitutional duties of the Office of Secretary of State and ensuring Kansas elections continue to be safe and trustworthy.

I ask for your support of HB2042. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Koupal".

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