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## STATE OF KANSAS

**Testimony: SB412 (NETURAL – written only)**  
Senate Ethics, Elections & Local Government Committee  
Thursday, February 20, 2020

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the Committee:

SB412 would change the requirements to apply for a permanent advance voting ballot. Under current law, only those individuals who have a permanent disability or illness are eligible to apply to have a ballot automatically transmitted by mail in every election the voter is eligible. SB412 would remove the permanent disability or illness language and allow any registered voter to apply for a permanent advance voting ballot.

The bill was methodical in maintaining existing photo ID requirements at the time of application. Although, in subsequent elections, a voter is not required to provide an acceptable form of identification. It also includes parameters to ensure voters who do not return their ballots after two elections can no longer participate. Both provisions help ensure only qualified voters participate and county resources are put to better use. We should note that voter participation varies based on the election year so the number of voters participating under the provisions of SB412 will be fluid.

We live in an increasingly mobilized society but under existing state law, mail ballots may not be forwarded. This legislation would result in an increase of mail ballots being returned to local election offices because they are undeliverable or delivered to an address the voter no longer resides at because they failed to update their voter registration information. To account for this increase, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider including provisions to account for the secure handling and processing of mail ballots.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Koupal  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
Communications & Policy