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Written Testimony - Opponent
House Bill 2585
House Elections
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Chairman Bergquist, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of House Bill 2585.

Kansas NEA believes that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. Senate Bill 394 reduces the amount of time that registered voters have to return their advance ballot, making it more difficult for Kansans to participate in our democracy. This bill is nothing more than an effort to disenfranchise voters.

In 2020, more than 30,000 advance ballots were received by the statutory deadline – the Friday following Election Day – according to information provided last year by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Katie Koupal. House Bill 2585 would result in these votes getting thrown out.

As Secretary of State Scott Schwab indicated in his testimony last year to the Senate Transparency and Ethics Committee, “Ultimately, the 2020 elections reaffirmed Kansas is a voter friendly state where voters have multiple options for how to cast their ballot safely and securely.”

This bill is unnecessary and would cause more harm than good for Kansas elections. We urge the committee to oppose House Bill 2585.