

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Senate Bill 394

Opposition Written Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with concern about Senate Bill 394, requiring all advanced voting ballots be returned by 7pm Election Day. I encourage you to NOT support SB 394 so that all citizens can vote safely.

First, mail ballots are a critical part of our election process, allowing all citizens to exercise their right to vote, including the elderly and persons with disabilities. During the pandemic, my parents, also Kansas residents, would not have been able to vote had they not had access to mail ballots. They are in their seventies and have been very cautious about keeping themselves safe.

Second, the 7pm requirement does not allow for any extenuating circumstances such as mail service experiencing delay for any reason when sending the ballot to the voter or upon the ballot's return. Delays happen with shipping and mailing all the time. Transport error with no fault of the voter is clearly not fair.

I encourage you to NOT support SB 394 so that all citizens can effectively vote.

Regards,

Laura Taylor Wiltanger

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