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## STATE OF KANSAS

### House Committee on Elections

#### Testimony on HB 2504

Bryan A. Caskey, Director of Elections  
Kansas Secretary of State's office

February 5, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2504. I am testifying as a proponent on this bill.

HB 2504 would instruct the Secretary of State's office to prescribe the general format of advance voting ballot envelopes. The envelopes shall include signature blocks for the advance voter, a signature block for a person providing assistance, and a signature block for a person who signs the envelope on behalf of another person who is physically unable to sign the envelope.

The Secretary of State's office currently provides sample ballot envelopes to all county election offices. I have included a copy of a sample advance ballot envelope that has been used in previous years. Although counties may modify the format the Secretary of State's office provides to meet postal service guidelines or to add additional pertinent information it is my understanding that all counties use the language provided in the sample ballot.

In addition, this bill would add a signature block for a person who signs an envelope on behalf of another person who is physically unable to sign the envelope. The Secretary of State's office is finalizing a regulation that will provide for this occurrence. The office has been working with the Disability Rights Center and will continue to do so and will work with the county election offices to finalize language that will be acceptable. The envelope that will be used in 2018 will then be updated prior to the 2018 Primary Election.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, and I stand for any questions.