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Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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TITLE: Kansas Citizen

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BILL NUMBER: SB 208, removal of ballot boxes

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

My name is Katia Lopez, and I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 208. I support having ballot box accessibility across the county and city, and therefore I oppose SB208.

Limiting ballot boxes in Kansas can have a detrimental impact on young voters. The youth of America has historically faced several barriers to voting, including limited access to transportation and long wait times at polling stations. With the pandemic continuing to ravage the country, these barriers have been exacerbated. By limiting ballot boxes, Kansas is making it even more challenging for young voters to cast their ballots. Many young voters, especially those who live in rural areas, may not have access to reliable transportation or may be unable to take time off from work or school to travel long distances to vote. Additionally, long wait times at limited polling stations can discourage young voters from participating in the democratic process.

Furthermore, limiting ballot boxes may disproportionately affect young voters of color. The suppression of votes from marginalized communities has a long and dark history in America, and recent attempts to restrict access to ballot boxes and other voting measures are no different. Young voters of color often face more barriers to voting, including voter ID laws and limited polling stations in their communities. By limiting ballot boxes, Kansas is making it even more difficult for these young voters to exercise their right to vote and have their voices heard in the democratic process. This is not only bad for young voters but bad for democracy as a whole.

Thank you for allowing me and other Kansans to testify against SB208. I urge all committee members to oppose SB208.

Katia Lopez

Kansas Citizen

Garden City, Kansas