

Date of Testimony Submittal: February 5, 2024
Bill Number: SB 365
Disposition: Opponent
Written testimony
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Name of interest represented: NAACP Kansas State Conference



Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 365.

On behalf of The NAACP Kansas State Conference, we stand unified in opposition against SB 365 which requires all advance voting ballots be returned by 7:00 p.m. on election day.

While there is some understanding in part as to why rescinding the 3-day grace period is being considered, by initiating this bill shows a lack of accountability in continuing to honor a practice that has been widely used and accepted by Kansans. It also sends mixed messages in that other voting bills put forth appear to significantly increase administrative burden.

The 3-day grace period appears to be favorable for many Kansans and this is especially true given the continual decline of dependable timely mail delivery in Kansas. Those using the U.S. postal service may find the timely delivery of their votes compromised due in no part to their diligent actions.

To not continue with the 3-day grace period shows a lack of empathy and responsibility for ensuring that all Kansans have every opportunity to effectively have their ballots delivered timely. Why would a committee want to hinder this process now after giving Kansans the ability to use the 3 day grace period? As a state that respects the right to vote, our legislators should initiate extended opportunities to ensure advance voting ballots are received, not give Kansans the opportunity for a 3-day grace period and then take it away.

Let's move forward in enhancing voting rights, not backwards. This is how we want to see our government work – for the people!

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