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Near and Dear-Written Testimony on SB41

President Emeritus of Notre Dame University Fr. Theodore Hesburgh once stated, “Voting is a civic sacrament”. I have always agreed to the utmost extent with this statement. As a current 17 year old, I will cast my first ballot in the 2016 elections. Although I can’t vote yet, I have been very involved in the political community here in Wichita. I have always looked forward to the day when I can vote because participation is one of the most important elements of our system. However, I wonder about how I, as a Kansas student, will be able to vote from an out of state or potentially out of nation school while I attend college. I ask around, and always receive the same answer, urging me to request an advanced ballot when the time comes. However, I have also heard stories of people requesting and not receiving ballots or receiving them late as they get tangled up in red tape or forgotten. Therefore, the same old answer I hear every time is not reassuring enough for me. I still worry about potentially not being able to vote. This concern makes SB41 near and dear to me. I feel that SB41 eliminates concerns of bureaucracy and alleviates fears of not being able to vote. This bill would serve as a reassurance to me and the many other Kansas students studying at out of state colleges. I hope you all consider this bill and support it, no matter which side of the aisle you’re on. Helping the youth participate should be a goal for all of us, Republican or Democratic. We must look back to the wise words of Fr. Theodore Hesburgh and remember how important it is to ensure that all Kansans have the right to participate in this “civic sacrament”. Thank you for bringing SB41 to a hearing in committee and thank you for considering my written testimony. Also, thank you to Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau for introducing this legislation. I hope to hear of the passage of this bill. I greatly appreciate it. If you have any further questions or concerns, then please feel free to contact me at the email provided in the letterhead.

Andrew Figueiredo

Concerned Student