

Testimony on House Bill 2477

Federal and State Affairs Committee

Presented by

Eva Noble

Seaman High School

Chairman Barker and Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee, Good morning. My name is Eva Noble and I would like to briefly share about the importance of House Bill 2477.

How fortunate are we as American Citizens to be able to actively participate and select our government officials and leaders? Democracy is one of our greatest gifts, yet most citizens aren't able to relish in the beauty of choosing their leaders simply because they must work. To many Americans, an hour's worth of missed pay is not worth a trip to the voting booth.

A democracy cannot function by the consent of the governed if not *all* the governed are able to exercise their consent. Designating election day a state holiday would render the voting process more equitable by allowing the underrepresented numbers of Kansans, such as the working class and minority populations, the opportunity to exercise their right to vote without missing any work. With this bill, the state of Kansas can send a clear message to its citizens and the rest of the nation, that voting is important and the "WE" in the Constitution still matters.

Members of the committee, with this election season marking the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, I challenge you to recall all of the important people of history who have fought for both yours and my right to vote. I encourage you to keep in mind the important role

that Kansas has played within this history from the Wyandotte Constitutional, the ratification of the 15th Amendment, and the granting of Municipal suffrage for women in 1887 which all lead to 1912 when *all* Kansas women gained the right to vote in Kansas. Kansas led the nation then, and can lead the nation now. I encourage you to support House Bill 2477.