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900 SW Jackson St
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Honorable Chair Rep. Blake Carpenter
Ranking Minority Member Honorable Rep. Vic Miller
Chairman Carpenter, and Honorable Members of House Committee on Elections
RE: Written Opposition to HB 2054

Dear Chairman Carpenter and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Elections:

I would first like to commend the members of this committee for your service to the citizens of Kansas and for your commitment to election integrity, and for ensuring that all Kansans have unfettered access to participate in a safe and secure election process.

Voting is a right guaranteed to all eligible citizens of the United States of America. HB2054 challenges that right by making it difficult for citizens to participate.

The proposed amendment in HB2054 to the existing law concerning advance ballots that prohibit anyone, other than a family member or caregiver of a voter, from delivering the voter's advance ballot to the county election office or polling location puts unnecessary burdens on voters. The amendment creates barriers for the elderly, barriers for voters in the hospitals where residents can't leave, and family members can't visit, but where a nurse or doctor could be the go-between to get ballots turned in legally. This amendment creates barriers for residents in remote communities, where there is the neighborly practice of hand delivering each other's sealed ballots to the county election office and barriers for those without access to reliable transportation. This unnecessary restriction disproportionately impacts the poor in our communities, African Americans, Latino and Indigenous voters. A demographic that is still suffering from historical, corrupt disenfranchisement.

America's top election officials agree that the shift to advance and mail-in voting will be permanent—even when the pandemic is over. Our energies and resources must be direct to improving the security infrastructure of our election offices and providing them with state-of-the-art technology. The continued use of outdated systems increases the possibility of a critical failure and poses REAL dangers. The focus should be on

implementing the kind of barriers that lessen the risk of a successful cyberattack, not lessening the voting access of citizens.

TRUST, a foundational plank of our democracy. Trust is our government, and trust in one another! Making it more challenging for citizens to engage in the foundational process of choosing who represents them only serves fans the flames of animosity and distrust. And undermines our democracy and makes us vulnerable to implosion.

These tumultuous times call for courageous leaders with an allegiance to our constitution. Leaders with an unfailing commitment to lead by example. Leaders diligently working to restore and build trust in our governing bodies and each other.

Accessible, Reliable, and Verifiable elections should be our focus!

Let "Free State Kansas" be the beacon on the hill shining the light to the pathway of "...one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Thank you!