



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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**Opponent for HB 2319
House Elections Committee
February 16, 2021**

Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am here today to share our opposition for HB2319. This bill proposes to shorten the amount of time a ballot that was postmarked by election day can be received to be counted.

The United States Postal Service in recent years has closed more and more sorting facilities. Local mail ends up having to travel further to be sorted, which increases the time it takes for it to be delivered. Mail that used to be delivered the next day after it was mailed now in many cases can take several days to be delivered.

Many Kansans with disabilities utilize advance voting by mail. They would be amongst the Kansans who could be negatively impacted by this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to HB2319. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.