



TESTIMONY OF CALEB SMITH  
INCLUSIVE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR  
KANSAS APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

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KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS  
**IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2333**  
FEBRUARY 18 , 2020

My name is Caleb Smith; I am a campaign director for the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a state full of thriving, inclusive, and just communities.

**Kansas Appleseed Opposes House Bill 2333.** House Bill 2333 seeks to address non-existent problems, and by doing so, creates problems of its own.

The changes proposed in this bill seem to be in search of a solution to a problem that does not exist. According to Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, “Kansas is not experiencing any issues with voter fraud.”<sup>1</sup> Studies show that there is no evidence that mail-in ballots or advanced ballots increase fraud.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the evidence suggests some states that have increased access to mail-in ballots have seen a decrease in fraud.<sup>3</sup>

K.S.A. 25-1122 (e) already prevents county election officials from sending advance ballots to people unless their signature is confirmed and an identification number is confirmed. This subsection does direct the county official to attempt to contact the potential voter if their information is not verified. The proposed language in HB 2333, however, might throw the process into question. The language proposed to be included in 25-1122 (j) [page 4 lines 23-36] says an incomplete application shall not be processed. This will potentially serve to prevent people from learning if their advanced ballot applications had some sort of defect. Rather than preventing any fraud, this language will only prevent legal voters from voting legally.

HB 2333 seeks to address a problem that does not exist. By doing so, it only creates ambiguity that may prevent lawful votes. For these reasons, Kansas Appleseed opposes passage of HB 2333.

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<sup>1</sup> Dakota, M. “Kansas Secretary of State says no evidence of fraud during election.” KSNT. <https://www.ksnt.com/elections/kansas-secretary-of-state-says-no-evidence-of-fraud-during-election/>

<sup>2</sup> Auerbach, J. “Does voting by mail increase fraud? Estimating the change in reported voter fraud when states switch to elections by mail.” Office of Science Policy- American Statistical Association. 2020. <https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-Vote-by-Mail.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Id.