

February 9, 2022

Written Testimony to Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

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TITLE: Kansas Citizen

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BILL NUMBER: SB388

BILL DESCRIPTION: Requiring the use of USPS for ballot return

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL TESTIMONY OR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY: Written testimony only

Dear committee members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB388, which results in a ban on ballot drop boxes.

Prior to the pandemic, I was someone who took great joy in voting in-person, on Election Day, every election. I was one of those people who took the kids with me, took pictures to post on social media; I really, *really* value voting. Like a lot of things that changed due to covid-19, however, my voting habits also had to change. I still keep my kids involved and take pictures, but we now look over my mail ballot at home and drive to our local drop box as a family to deliver it (with my oldest daughter as our family DJ).

Drop boxes have allowed my family to continue voting all together, and safely, during a pandemic. For other Kansans, drop boxes might make it easier to vote when there are mobility issues, or schedule conflicts. Drop boxes add value by making it easier for my neighbors to get as excited about voting as I am.

I also oppose this bill eliminating the ability voters to return their ballots via FedEx or UPS. I personally know of several people who have college students living outside of Kansas, who relied on those paid services to ensure that their ballot would arrive in the right place, on time, and be counted. There is not a strong argument to be made for taking away the ability of our young adult voters to participate in Elections, and this bill would absolutely have that effect.

I appreciate your time and work, and ask again that you oppose SB388.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Cunningham