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Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 208, removal of ballot boxes

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Proctor & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 208.

I know many college students in Kansas who are already currently affected disproportionately by current voting laws because of the accessibility to voting in Kansas. I think SB 208 will further affect college students and suppress their right to vote. Voter suppression bills are bad for Kansas voters because they restrict or limit the ability of eligible voters to participate in the democratic process. These bills are often introduced under the guise of preventing voter fraud, but in reality, they disproportionately affect marginalized communities and make it harder for them to exercise their right to vote. College students in Kansas shouldn't have to struggle to vote in our state, they should be focused on academic obligations while freely participating in our democracy. Voter suppression bills can disproportionately impact certain communities: Studies have shown that voter suppression efforts tend to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, such as people of color, low-income individuals, and younger voters. These groups are often the most affected by measures like strict voter ID requirements and reduced access to early voting, which can create barriers to voting. Voter suppression bills can undermine the legitimacy of elections: When voters are prevented from participating in elections, it can undermine the legitimacy of the electoral process. This can lead to a lack of trust in the outcome of elections and in the government itself.

As a former college student and young first generation American voter, I urge you all to oppose SB208.

Jorge Ochoa

Kansas Citizen

Garden City, Kansas