



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

**Disability Rights Center of Kansas**  
214 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 ♦ Topeka, KS 66603  
Phone: 785.273.9661 ♦ Toll Free: 1.877.776.1541  
Toll Free TDD: 1.877.335.3725 ♦ Fax: 785-273-9414  
[www.drckansas.org](http://www.drckansas.org) [info@drckansas.org](mailto:info@drckansas.org)

**February 6, 2024**  
**Neutral for HB 2518**  
**Oral in-person Testimony**

**Chairman Proctor 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 one suggestion to dramatically improve HB 2518 and ensure the voting process remains accessible for Kansans with disabilities.

The language of the bill is very security and integrity focused, which is very important. Federal law also requires the process be accessible as well.

I would like to encourage the committee to add the words "and accessibility" to the end of line 12 of the bill. The sentence in lines 10-13 would then read as the following:

“Such regulations shall include the dates, times and locations for the use of remote ballot boxes and any other requirements that the secretary deems necessary to preserve the integrity **and accessibility** of the ballots, the remote ballot boxes and the election process.”

Thank you for the opportunity to share our suggestion for HB 2518. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.