

February 5, 2024

HB 2518 Opponent testimony, written only

Chairman Proctor and esteemed committee members,

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB 2518 relating to remote ballot boxes.

Rather than codifying remote ballot boxes by giving the Secretary of State authority over regulating them, we need to completely remove remote ballot boxes from the electoral process.

Remote ballot boxes were invented out of thin air expressly for the Covid pandemic on questionable science and weak logic. A better controlled remote ballot box has existed for much longer that already meets the needs of the voters, the mailbox or post office. Whatever reason existed at one point has long since passed leaving ballot boxes about as useful as plexiglass shields at the checkout counters of grocery stores.

We've seen videos of people dropping off armloads of ballots at boxes with no accountability of where they gathered those ballots or who they were "helping" by dropping off so many ballots. The use of unrestricted drop boxes fuels rumors of fraud with no positive benefit and serves to only weaken people's faith in the electoral system.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 2518 and instead to pass a measure banning the use of remote drop boxes completely. Between early voting locations, mail in ballots and voting at the county clerk's office there is simply no need for remote ballot boxes that outweighs the potential risk of abuse and the loss of faith they create.

Thank you,

Roger Lomshek

Crawford County, KS GOP communications director

SEK Freedom Chairman