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Written Testimony – Opponent
Senate Bill 365
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
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Chairman Thompson, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 365.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization that represents educators across the state of Kansas. Our members are comprised of certified classroom teachers as well as support staff, including but not limited to social workers, paraprofessionals, janitors, and bus drivers. It is not uncommon for these professionals to rely on advance ballots to participate in our democracy because of time constraints resulting from their professional workday responsibilities on Election Day.

Kansas NEA believes that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. As such, we believe Senate Bill 365 makes it more difficult to return an advance ballot, particularly given the amount of time it now takes for the United State Postal Service to process and deliver mail.

In 2020, more than 30,000 advance ballots were received by the statutory deadline – the Friday following Election Day – according to information provided last year by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Katie Koupal. Senate Bill 365 would result in these votes getting thrown out for reasons beyond the voter’s control.

As Secretary of State Scott Schwab indicated in his testimony to the Senate Transparency and Ethics Committee in 2021, “Ultimately, the 2020 elections reaffirmed Kansas is a voter friendly state where voters have multiple options for how to cast their ballot safely and securely.” This has not changed in the past 3 years.

This bill is unnecessary and would cause more harm than good for Kansas elections. We urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 365.