



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

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Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 208
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 208.

A core value of the Kansas NEA is Democracy. We believe that a strong representative democracy can only be achieved when every eligible citizen has easy access to voting. As such, we oppose Senate Bill 208 because it makes it reduces access to remote ballot boxes to return advance ballots.

Senate Bill 208 reduces the number of remote ballot boxes to one per every 30,000 voters. It also eliminates evening and weekend accessibility to the ballot boxes as it restricts hours to align with the hours of the county election office. This not only makes it more difficult Kansas voters to participate in an election using an advance voting ballot, but it also significantly limits the participation of our members. It is not uncommon for our members to have a workday that expands the same hours as the business day of their county election office. Restricting the hours of the ballot boxes limits when and how our educators who participate by advance ballot to return their ballots.

If there is anything we have learned from the past few years, it should be that it's critical that we have an election system that can provide flexibility and can accommodate all Kansas voters. There are many needs within each community to provide many opportunities for the use of advance voting ballots. We should want a system that is easy, convenient, and as accessible as possible. Kansas NEA urges the committee to oppose Senate Bill 208.