



Sonya L. Stohs
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House Committee on Elections
Testimony on HB 2225
Sonya L. Stohs, Marshall County Clerk

Chairman Esau and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2225.

I support HB 2225 allowing voters to apply for a permanent advance ballot without a medical reason. Marshall County is rural farming community located on the 70 Miles south of Lincoln, NE and 60 miles north of Manhattan. We have manufacturing facilities in Marysville and Waterville along with a large number of Union Pacific employees that work in North Platte and Omaha, NE. We have a large percentage of our working population that drives out of County to go to work. We also have a high number of college commuters going to K-State, Southeast Community College in Beatrice, NE, Cloud County Community College and Highland Community College. With these voters working away from home out of County I have a high number of advance voters every Election and a larger number that do not vote because they wait till Election Day and get busy or cannot get away from work. HB 2225 would allow those voters to apply for a permanent advance and never have to worry about missing the right to cast their ballot.

HB 2225 will also help those caretakers of voters that already receive a permanent advance ballot for medical reasons. I feel that HB 2225 will increase my voter turnout and help to eliminate the voter apathy.

I have talked with members of my community about HB 2225 and the ones that I have spoken to our very much in support. They feel it will simplify the process by being able to complete an application one time and their ballot being sent to them every election. With moving all elections to the fall and the unknown length of fall harvest with Kansas weather it would be very helpful for my area farm families.

Thank you for your consideration, I respectfully request your support of HB 2225.