

February 19, 2019

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill-43

Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Chairwoman – Senator Elaine Bowers

Vice Chair – Senator Randall Hardy

Ranking Minority – Senator David Haley

Committee Members

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill number-43. As we all no doubt agree, voting is the cornerstone of our Democracy. The ability of all citizens to cast an unfettered vote is fundamental to the principles for which we stand. Our vote is our voice, and it is only through the full exercise of the franchise that we fully realize the dreams of our founding fathers.

The National Council of State Legislature's has noted that "there is strong evidence that Same Day Registration increases voter turnout". And a same day registration program, in combination with strong ID requirements can expand the electorate without compromising the integrity of the process. Already, 17 States have some form of same day registration in place and there have been no corresponding increases in fraud cases or electoral malfeasance as a result of their implementation.

Kansas has an opportunity to move to the cutting edge of expanding the voter franchise while maintaining election integrity. Same day voter registration will boost voter turnout, allow more Kansans to have a say in their own governance, and provide a model for the nation on how elections can be held that are 'smart', 'safe', and 'accessible'.

I fully and wholeheartedly support this legislation, and I urge your support for the same.

Thank you,

Kevin Myles

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