

House Election Committee Chair, Rep. Blake Carpenter Hearing: January 28, 2021

Position – OPPOSE HB 2054

Chair Carpenter, and Members of the Committee,

The Mainstream Coalition opposes HB 2054, limiting delivery of advance ballots.

The right to vote, and have that vote counted, is central to our democracy. Our nation has a long history of struggle with this issue. Luckily, in Kansas, even in the depths of a global pandemic, even with prominent national figures baselessly attacking our election processes, our elections here had no issues of fraud.

"Kansas did not experience any widespread, systematic issues with voter fraud, intimidation, irregularities or voting problems," a spokeswoman for the Kansas Secretary of State told the New York Times.

This bill would restrict the ability of Kansans to vote—including disabled Kansans—plain and simple. With no fraud in this election, we do not understand why the Legislature would attempt to make voting more difficult. In the words of Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab in testimony before the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee, "We don't need a drastic change in our election law."

We ask you to please oppose passage of HB 2054.

Thank you,

Michael Poppa Executive Director of the Mainstream Coalition

Founded in 1993, the Mainstream Coalition is a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for common sense public policy in Kansas. Our members do more than vote.