

ATTN: Sen. Michael Welton
2/13/2022
SB 445
OPPONENT
Written-only testimony
From Alice J. Capson, a private citizen

I am very concerned about the attempts with SB 445 to make advanced voting more difficult. We should be trying to expand opportunities for people to vote, not setting up roadblocks. Some voters face problems dropping off their ballots if they do not have transportation to the ballot box. That becomes a bigger problem when there aren't sufficient boxes available close to the district.

I am a BSA (formerly Boy Scouts) merit badge counselor teaching citizenship badges. The scouting booklet tells them that the most important part of the running of the government is the VOTERS. The elected officials are responsible to the VOTERS. Therefore, voting should be made convenient for those voters. Limiting the number of advance ballot boxes when they are needed (as SB 445 attempts to do), or deliberately placing them far away from the voting district is voter suppression. The legislature should be ashamed to vote for this blatant voter suppression. We saw some of that a few years ago in Dodge City!

If legislators are concerned about whether a voter will support them with their ballots, the action to take is to reach out to the voters and enact laws that serve the voters to win favor. That's the way to win; not preventing valid voters from voting or creating barriers for them to vote.! Preventing registered voters from exercising their right to vote is against the U.S. Constitution! Remember that the 24th amendment banned poll taxes because some states tried to suppress voter participation years ago by requiring them. Restricting advance ballots by mail as proposed by SB 445 violates the spirit of that amendment.

Please do not let SB445 advance in the legislature.

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