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Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 2438
House Committee on Elections

Committee Chair Proctor, Ranking Member Haskins, and Members of the House Committee on Elections:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Kansas Appleseed opposes HB 2438, which would place restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications. We oppose this bill for the simple fact that the Legislature should be making it easier for Kansans to fulfill their civic obligation to vote, not harder.

Part of Kansas Appleseed's mission is helping Kansans understand the importance of civic engagement and how their vote matters; we want every Kansan who is legally able to vote to exercise that right, because our communities are stronger when more people participate. Central to making this happen is voter registration. According to the Movement Advancement Project, Kansas is one of 43 states and Washington, DC that allows citizens to register to vote online.¹ HB 2438 would move Kansas backwards in our approach to civic engagement, instead of forward by imposing restrictions on websites that have proven to be successful, such as KSVotes.org.

In 2024, 14,491 were registrations processed through KSVotes.org². That's proof online registration through a non-government website works — and should be expanded, not taken away. Thousands of Kansans found a non-partisan website that worked for them; without it, they may not have been able to register and exercise their right to vote. Amidst efforts in the legislature focused on government efficiency and modernizing systems, HB 2438 is both counterintuitive and counterproductive. The Secretary of State's office should be promoting this proven website and partnering with other vendors to increase accessibility to online registrations.

HB 2438 would impede local county elections offices' efforts to register as many legal voters as possible unless approved by the Secretary of State. Local officials — who know their communities best — should have the flexibility to use the tools that make registration accessible and user-friendly for voters.

Independent, non-partisan vendors are required to utilize the federal voter registration application, so it is the same application process provided by the government with the same information collected for local officials to verify.

Voting in Kansas is safe and secure. Online registration, whether through the Secretary of State's website or KSVotes.org works and should be expanded. We urge you to vote no on HB 2438.

¹ https://www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/online_voter_registration

² <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pjiN48LhbNE6q7equH330kuJyAkBjEWNZEbG0iCyYqU/edit?gid=631185466#gid=631185466>