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Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2493
House Committee on Elections

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of Kansas Appleseed in opposition to HB 2493. The provisions of this bill would require a person transmitting or delivering a ballot on behalf of another voter to include their identification number, such as a driver's license number, on the sworn statement, and that such ballot collectors be qualified electors themselves.¹

Kansas Appleseed has a long history of ensuring all eligible Kansans can participate in free and fair elections. HB 2493 would do the opposite by baselessly complicating the already intricate process of third-party ballot collection, which disproportionately helps Kansas voters who face mobility issues and those who live in rural areas.

K.S.A. 25-2437 details the current process of ballot transmission and delivery. The most recent changes to the statute were enacted in 2021 under HB 2183, and require both the ballot collector and the voter to sign sworn statements. For a collector, one must affirm that they did not exercise undue influence on voters and that they delivered no more than 10 ballots. For the voter, one must affirm that they weren't subjected to undue influence while casting their ballot by the collector. And in the unlikely event that a ballot collector violates the parameters of their role, they will be charged with a severity level nine, nonperson felony.²

Clearly, a robust process of ballot collecting and delivery that ensures electoral integrity and measures of accountability already exists.

HB 2493 would make this system more difficult, however, by tacking on two additional stipulations: (1) that ballot collectors be qualified electors, and (2) that ballot collectors provide a driver's license number, or identification number of another document, on their sworn statement.

As previously mentioned, rural voters and individuals who face mobility challenges are the most dependent on ballot collectors to have their votes counted. Under this bill, the following groups would be unable to assist their friends, relatives, or neighbors in casting their votes: Noncitizens

¹ H.B. 2493, 2025 Biennium, 2026 Reg. Sess. (Kansas 2026).
https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/hb2493/

² K.S.A. 25-2437. https://www.ksrevisor.gov/statutes/chapters/ch25/025_024_0037.html ; Senate Sub. for H.B. 2183, 2021 Biennium, 2021 Reg. Sess. (Kansas 2021).
https://kslegislature.gov/li_2022/b2021_22/measures/documents/hb2183_enrolled.pdf

(of all statuses); minors (including children and grandchildren); non-Kansas residents; and Kansans who aren't registered to vote but eligible to do so (approx. 404,000).³

Unsurprisingly, many people who are eligible to vote but have failed to register don't possess or have the ability to acquire the necessary identification for registration.⁴

These stipulations would also disenfranchise the voters who rely on ballot collectors. Unless they can find someone who is a qualified elector, in possession of acceptable identification, and willing to serve as a ballot collector, then they may not get to vote at all.

For these reasons, I urge you to trust in the existing process and vote against HB 2493.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Fonkert

³ Kansas Secretary of State. (2024, May 7). Chapter 1. Voter Registration. Topeka, KS.; *Election Statistics Data*. Kansas Secretary of State. (2025). <https://sos.ks.gov/elections/election-statistics-data.html>; Kaiser Family Foundation. (2025). *Voting and Voter Registration as a Share of the Voter Population, by Race/Ethnicity*. KFF.

<https://www.kff.org/state-health-policy-data/state-indicator/voting-and-voter-registration-as-a-share-of-the-voter-population-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22%3A%22Location%22%2C%22sort%22%3A%22asc%22%7D>

⁴ Morris, K., & Henry, C. (2024, June 11). *Millions of Americans Don't Have Documents Proving Their Citizenship Readily Available*. Brennan Center for Justice. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/millions-americans-dont-have-documents-proving-their-citizenship-readily>