



January 16, 2018

Senator Elaine Bowers
Room 223-E
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Bowers,

We are diverse residents of Kansas who have seen firsthand how our state's failed elections policies have led to fewer citizens exercising their right to vote. Policies such as the Secretary of State's "Show Me Your Papers" law have kept tens of thousands of citizens—including veterans, senior citizens, students, and people on a low or fixed-income—shut out of the process. And there are countless others who have avoided the polls all together.

No Kansan should have to choose between going to work and casting a ballot. And no Kansan should have to pay exorbitant fees for out of state documents in order to register to vote. Most of all, these restrictions have sent a message to citizens across the state that we are not heard.

We need your help to give a voice back to the people. We're asking for a hearing on a bill that would (1) repeal the Secretary of State's cumbersome proof of citizenship requirement, (2) enact election-day registration so that citizens can register and cast a ballot on the same day, (3) withdraw from the wasteful and inefficient "Interstate Crosscheck" system, and (4) expand early voting with a permanent advance voter status.

States including Utah, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Carolina have enacted both election-day registration and advance voting, and turnout has soared. Kansas could implement these simple reforms and do the same here.

As chair of the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee, you can make sure that this is a priority in the 2018 legislative session. A hearing would give people across the state a chance to share our stories.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Kansas
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Kansas
Communities Creating Opportunity
El Centro, Inc.
Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus
Indivisible KC
Kansas Appleseed
Kansas Association of Community Action
Programs
Kansas Interfaith Action
League of Latin American Citizens – Kansas
League of Women Voters of Kansas

Loud Light
MainStream Coalition
Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice
NAACP - Kansas State Conference
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater
Kansas City Section
Social Justice Council of Shawnee Mission
Unitarian Universalist Church
Stand Up KC
Urban League of Kansas
Women for Kansas