

SCOTT SCHWAB
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4564
sos.kansas.gov

STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on SCR1605 (proponent)

House Elections Committee
Thursday, March 21, 2019

Chairman Sutton and members of the Committee:

I appear before you today to testify in support of SCR1605, a constitutional amendment to remove the census adjustment requirement for military personnel and students. This provision, contained in the *Kansas Constitution*, was intended to slow the impact of urban migration from the rural parts of Kansas to the more populated, eastern half of the State. Although well intended, the adjustment has had the opposite effect by marginally increasing the population numbers for urban areas.

The adjustment requirement is burdensome, antiquated and expensive. Kansas is the only state in the Nation that continues to adjust census numbers. Should the State continue this practice, the estimated cost for executing this requirement as part of the upcoming 2020 census is approximately \$834,000. This figure includes programming expenses, salaries for additional staff, office supplies, vendor costs and consulting fees.

In addition, SCR1605 would benefit the State by allowing for expedited redistricting. Under current practice, it takes three to six months to contact all military members and students residing in Kansas to determine where they would like to be counted as residents. In passing SCR1605, this delay would be eliminated, and the Legislature would have additional time to complete the redistricting process.

The adjustment issue is not a new one. Former Secretaries of State have also tried to resolve this matter with similar legislation. I ask for your support in eliminating this outdated requirement and respectfully request you pass SCR1605. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Schwab".

Scott Schwab
Kansas Secretary of State