

Testimony on House Bill 2477

Federal and State Affairs Committee

Presented by

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Good morning Chairman Barker and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee. I am Ahmni Pang-Johnson and I am here today to speak favorably for House Bill 2477 and explain why Election day should be designated a holiday in Kansas.

Every law-abiding adult American citizen currently has the right to vote, but that does not mean that they have the opportunity to vote. Voting is an important civic responsibility, and if one person does not vote because they are not able due to scheduling or polling locations, then it should be our highest priority to foster a culture where democracy thrives by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to vote. We **should** not be satisfied with a "democracy" in which more than 60 percent do not vote.

Taking proactive steps in tackling this issue in order to strengthen our democracy, as there are many gaping holes in the access to vote in Kansas. American citizens support election day being designated a holiday. According to a Poll done by the Pew Research, more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Americans support a measure to make it a national holiday.

For the reasons outlined above and in my peers' testimonies we urge you all to vote in favor of House Bill 2477 for the protection of one of the most important rights granted in the United States Constitution.

Thank you.