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Senate

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Testimony in Support of SB 310 – Requiring all voting systems for elections to use individual voter-verified paper ballots.

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Honorable Chair – Elaine Bowers
Vice Chair – Randall Hardy
Ranking Minority – David Haley
Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Madam Chair and esteemed members of the Committee! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of SB 310 today.

This bill will help insure the integrity of elections in Kansas by requiring the use of a voter-verified paper ballot. According to an April 03, 2018 article in the Kansas City Star, Kansas is one of only 14 states that still allows counties to use DRE(Direct Recording Electronic) systems, without a paper trail. With roughly one fourth of Kansas' 105 counties still using paperless touch screen machines.

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article207835974.html>

In Georgia, a federal judge ruled in favor of voters whom sued their state over the use of paperless voting machines. In her 153-page ruling, Judge Amy Totenberg of the Northern District of Georgia prohibited the state from conducting elections on the digital touchscreen voting machines that have been in use for the last 17 years after 2019. The direct-recording electronic machines, also known as DREs, do not produce paper records of votes cast, prompting criticism and legal action from groups like the Coalition for Good Governance, which filed the lawsuit in 2018.

<https://statescoop.com/georgia-paper-voting-machines-lawsuit-ruling/>

If an electronic voting system is connected to the internet or has wireless connectivity technology, it can be hacked. Even machines not connected to the Internet are hackable through compromised memory cards used to set up the voting machine before each specific election or remote access software or a miscalibration of the DER. If the results of an election with paper ballots is questioned, the election results can be verified by doing an audit or recount of the paper ballots. If the results of an election using electronic system without a paper trail is contested, you can only say trust me the results are accurate.

If an electronic voting system without a paper trail should fail in the middle of an election, there is a good chance that those results could be permanently lost. With a paper trail, unless the ballot is lost, you always have the opportunity to do an audit or a recount.

In a September 19, 2017 USA Today article, it reports that the FBI has confirmed that 39 states have had their election systems scanned or targeted by Russia.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/09/19/russia-hacking-election-fears-prompts-states-to-switch-to-paper-ballots/666020001/>

In closing; If after reading and listening to my testimony you are still not convinced to pass SB 310, remember the recent Iowa Caucus.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask that you pass SB 310 out of your committee favorably.

Thank you, Madam Chair, and Committee for your time and consideration it was an honor to speak before you! I will stand for questioning at the appropriate time.

Thank you,

Senator Richard Hilderbrand

District I3