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Richard Hilderbrand
Senator, 13th District
Senate Majority Whip

February 9, 2022

Testimony in Support of SB 388 – Concerning Elections

Honorable Chair – Rob Olson
Vice Chair – Richard Hilderbrand
Ranking Minority – Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Chairman Olson and esteemed members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 388 today.

In a recent Sunflower State Journal article our current Secretary of State made the following quote:

“The last thing I need is a county getting sued because their county’s security isn’t like this county’s security, he said. “If we could put in a baseline line of security, that would be helpful,” he said. “We would like to set standards so everybody’s handling is the same.”

Source: <https://sunflowerstatejournal.com/schwab-ballot-drop-boxes-more-reliable-than-mail/>

This bill does this by requiring every mail-in ballot to be personally delivered to an election official or by mailing the ballot using the United States Postal Service. This would put in the security that the SoS referred to, by requiring an Election Officer hired by the local Election Office who has sworn an oath to be present when those ballots are dropped off at a ballot box.

This bill would also cut down on provisional ballots by allowing an election official to ensure that each ballot envelope turned in at a manned drop box are properly filled out and signed. By passing this bill we will help ensure that every legally cast vote will be counted and will provide a chain of custody to ease concerns of voters.

I urge you to pass SB 388 out favorably from this committee.

Thank you,

Senator Richard Hilderbrand
District 13