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## STATE OF KANSAS

### **Testimony: SB256 (Proponent)**

House Elections Committee  
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Chairman Sutton and members of the Committee:

Last year, our team reviewed over 900 statutes directly involving the Office of Secretary of State and found many needed updated, clarified or eliminated. SB256 is a product of that effort and we offer this testimony in support of the legislation.

In 2015, the Legislature amended state law to make the presidential primary a function of the major political parties beginning in 2016 (K.S.A.4501(a)). Although this change essentially invalidated the remainder of the statutes governing the presidential primary process, they were not deleted. SB256 cleans-up statutes governing the presidential preference primary by deleting the nullified sections.

SB256 would also repeal two statutes enacted in 1911 that originally prohibited campaign contributions from government regulated entities like railroads, phone companies, financial institutions and energy companies or from their trustees or majority shareholders. These statutes were amended over time and now serve no purpose. They are standalone items in state statute and not a part of today's campaign finance law.

We would like to bring your attention to section 4 of the bill, dealing with membership of certain entities, including credit unions. The only change to this section is where references to adjusted federal census information are removed from existing state law. This change is consistent with other parts of SB256 striking references to adjusted federal census information.

Finally, SB256 would remove references of the census adjustment from state law. In the November 2019 general election, Kansans overwhelmingly voted in support of eliminating the census adjustment from the *Kansas Constitution*. The bill amends redistricting language to state the Kansas Legislature will use federal census numbers, not adjusted numbers, for redistricting. It also deletes statutes pertaining only to the one-time 1988 state-conducted census.

SB256 is legislation that simply cleans-up state statute. On behalf of the Office of Secretary of State we appreciate your thoughtful consideration and ask for your support of SB256.

Respectfully Submitted,

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