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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony: SB256 (Proponent)
Senate Elections Committee
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Chairwoman Bowers 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 small, non-controversial, 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.

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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