

Sister Faye Huelsmann, CSJ
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Re: SB351

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns and experience on voting regarding the SB 351. I am a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Ks. I have worked in Colorado for nearly 40 years and within the last two years have returned to our Motherhouse. There are at least 3 other sisters who have returned to Kansas from out of state. Each of us has had similar difficulties in voting.

I have discovered how difficult it is to, first of all, get registered to vote. I made at least three trips to collect the documents required to get registered.

However, my top priority at this point is to work to increase voter registration and hopefully to make it easier for provisional votes to count. I have discovered that many provisional votes have not counted across the state and when I mention this to others, they are surprised and have wondered if their votes counted. I want to encourage our Kansans to vote and know that their votes count. SB351 would help ensure that.

Another difficulty for me was that I could not use our post office address because I had to have a physical address to register to vote. But since I live at the Motherhouse and all our mail goes to the P.O. Box, and I don't any longer get official mail or any bills in my name, I had no mail to qualify me as legitimate.

Although SB351 doesn't address the above problem, I am hopeful that you will address the provisional voting difficulty so that one problem is solved.

Thank you for listening. I want everyone's vote to count and I believe voting is a privilege but also a responsibility as a citizen.

SISTER FAYE HUELSMANN