

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CHRISTOPHER D. CROFT
8TH DISTRICT

March 10, 2021

House Committee on Elections
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Chairman Carpenter and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss my opposition to H.R. 1 and my support for H.C.R. 5015.

The U.S. House of Representatives, as part of the 117th Congress, passed H.R. 1 on March 3rd, 2021. The Act, known as the “For the People Act,” is anything but, “For the People.” If this bill were signed into law, it would effectively strip Kansas and all other states of their right to regulate elections. It eliminates the ability of the state legislature to establish voting boundaries and redraw their district boundaries. In addition to that, our freedom of speech would be under attack once again through the provisions included in the bill.

H.R.1 would obliterate the constitutional rights of Kansas to determine our election process, by imposing sweeping, one-size-fits all policies. It sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into the business of states in other arenas. H.R. 1 threatens one of the fundamental bulwarks of the nation; that we are free and independent States, united in a common cause. H.R. 1 changes that focus on the states to the central oppressive government.

The bill also has serious First Amendment implications. H.R. 1 expands the “content” and “conduct” standards for campaign advertising or speech to an absurdly broad degree. By expanding the definitions to include any vague reference to a candidate by any group, as “campaign speech,” the bill will severely jeopardize ordinary Americans’ rights to free speech.

Most importantly, H.R. 1 establishes new public financing of partisan political campaigns for certain federal races. The last thing we need in politics is to inject public financing into a highly charged and partisan environment. Utilizing public funds to bolster partisan campaign only serves to embolden and protect politicians and limits the voice of Americans.

Already, Kansans and Americans are suspect of the elected officials at the national level. H.R. 1 sets clear the concerns of the people, that national officials want to expand the power of the central government and subdue the states and the people. It wants to eliminate any discourse and cancel ideas, thoughts, or opinions that differ from the elite's position. We are founded on the importance of differing ideas but uniting on common ground. H.R. 1 eliminates the ability for finding common ground.

The "For the People Act," is only serving the interest of the current political elites in order to maintain power and promote an agenda of election control. Our constitution outlines what the role of Congress and what the role of States is in elections, and this bill essentially erases that separation of power. If we truly want to maintain a government of the people, by the people, for the people, then we must understand that these decisions should be made by the people in their states.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Croft", written over a printed name.

Rep. Chris Croft

District 8, Overland Park & Olathe