

Dear Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Marlene Blatnik-Freeze. I am 79 years old and have lived most of my life in Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 293.

In the last Presidential in 2024 I stood in a line for over a hour and a half. Thank goodness it was sunny, mild day, but decided that I would mail in my ballot for subsequent elections. I will be 82 years old in 2028 and am concerned that standing in a long line outside in November may not be possible.

- But SB 293 will to reduce the chances of my vote being counted by rescinding the mail-in grace-period, **ballots that are properly filled out, postmarked on time, and mailed by the legal deadline would be discarded simply because of postal delays.** Voters would be punished for something completely outside their control: the speed of the mail. Why? To take away a citizen's vote?

I ask you to consider my testimony, respect Ohio voters, and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Marlene Blatnik-Freeze