

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

I am writing to express my firm objections to SB 293. I work for a nonprofit organization that works year-round to encourage everyone to vote in every election, and it's discouraging that this bill is even being considered. Why would you want fewer people to take part in deciding who represents them?

Over the past several years, changes in our state have made it more difficult for Ohioans to vote. Data from the November 2024 election shows that more than 9,500 ballots were received during the four-day post election window. These ballots were postmarked on time, and mailed by the correct date, but they were received late due to postal delays.

In order for Ohio to be a state where elected officials truly represent all citizens, why would you want to exclude the will of so many voters? Can you honestly say that there are valid reasons for this bill? From my perspective, it just looks like an attempt to suppress votes and prevent Ohio voters from exercising their rights.

Please vote No on SB 293.

Respectfully,

Bridget Rueter