

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

My name is Peyton Clark. I am a current law student at Cleveland State University School of Law. I am vehemently opposed to SB 293.

Every vote counts. The foundation of democracy lives in the Founding Fathers' intentions for this country. The passing of this bill would be a disgrace to those who fought for our right to engage in our civic duty which is charged to us in the United States Constitution. In the words of John Adams, "we electors have an important constitutional power placed in our hands."

This bill would disproportionately affect voters in Rural Ohio, Ohio seniors and those with disabilities, and Ohio voters without a means to reliable transportation, and it seeks to punish the 31% of all Ohio voters for the speed of the mail. Mail-in ballot voters do not have any additional time to submit their ballots. As long as their ballots are postmarked by election day, they are eligible to vote. The current 4-day period in which ballots are able to be received by Boards of Elections allows these ballots from rural areas to arrive at the Boards of Elections to be counted and ensures everyone has an opportunity to participate in their democracy.

According to the Secretary of State, over 7,000 mail-in ballots were returned between November 5th and November 8th this year. That is a significant number of voters whose votes can help decide close races in counties across Ohio. Every person deserves to have a say in their elections, this bill aims to eliminate that basic Constitutional right.

Voting goes beyond party lines. It is essential to ensure every American is able to participate in democracy.

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

In service,
Peyton Clark