

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 Laura Dickson. I am a 62 year, lifelong Ohioan. In the recent past, I have been assured by the Secretary of State that our elections are exceedingly secure and difficult to manipulate. Therefore, the rationale for this bill is questionable at best. I am adamant that SB 293 is nothing more than a Republican backed voter suppression bill introduced as a means to manipulate our elections and am adamantly opposed.

### **SB 293 would throw out valid votes**

- More than 9,500 ballots were received during the November 2024 four-day post election window (source: [Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard](#)).
- 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.

Considering the fact that the U.S. postal service is facing difficulties (at the hands of the government), I suspect that this bill is being introduced as a means of taking advantage of postal delays to manipulate elections in favor of one party with more in person voters. This bill strips voter rights from those with disabilities, illness, economic disadvantage (creating lack of transportation to polls, easy access to internet and printing ballot requests, and lack of employment flexibility to vote).

This bill is anti-American. It punishes voters for the errors of a weakened postal system. It favors one party. It favors one economic class. It discriminates against the elderly, the ill, and the disabled. Ohioans expect their ballots will be counted as long as they are postmarked by the required date.

I remind you that our November 4th election results clearly indicate that we the people are fed up with these tactics and we will vote accordingly.

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

***With Hope for Sanity,***

***Laura Lee Dickson***

***Ohio Resident and Voter***