

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 Joann Kiessler. I am a working, middle-aged, voting woman who raised four children in the suburbs of Cincinnati. I am very much opposed to SB 293.

When my children were young, being able to cast my vote at the polling site could be very challenging. Waiting in long lines with children and/or having to leave the line before casting my vote to go pick them up from school was a struggle. Then I learned that I could vote by mail, from home. This has become my regular method of voting ever since and greatly increased my interest and participation especially in local issues.

As my children have grown and attended colleges in SC and MA, with two now working out of state, voting by mail has been their only option to cast their vote. But their generation is quite naive when it comes to "snail mail", having almost everything available on their phones and computers. It is customary for the date of Election Day, or the 1st or 2nd Tuesday in November, to be imprinted in their minds, but not when the ballot would need to be mailed to be received by the Board of Elections by that date.

Even if the above weren't obstacles, I have personally had several bill payment checks lost in the mail, addressed to different institutions, but using the pre-addressed envelope provided by each institution. They didn't just arrive late, they never reached their destination. Due to this, I now pay service fees to pay a few of these bills online to avoid the institution charges and dings to my credit rating. And this is without the increase in mail volume that happens during elections. Unfortunately, the reliability of our postal system alone warrants extra days for mail to be delivered.

Please consider my testimony and personal experience, respect Ohio voters who choose to exercise their right but may have logistical complications, and vote NO on this anti-American bill. We should be encouraging individuals to safely and legally exercise their right to vote, not punishing them and rejecting their involvement in our Democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

~ Joann Kiessling