

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 S.C. Doran. I am a taxpayer, a voter, a mother, a wife, a caregiver of aging parents, an advocate for justice, and a social worker in Lucas County Ohio. I strongly object to **Ohio SB 293** because it clearly aims to discard legitimate votes—those submitted promptly and properly postmarked but delayed by the postal service. More than 9,500 ballots in November 2024 arrived during the four-day window after Election Day that this bill would eliminate. By cutting that window, SB 293 would punish people for factors entirely beyond their control: the pace of the mail.

This isn't just an abstract policy fight for me — it's personal. My disabled daughter votes by mail. My aging mother-in-law votes by mail. They are thoughtful, engaged citizens whose voices deserve to count just as much as any able bodied person's does. Passing this bill sends an ugly message: their participation matters less. As a social worker, I see people every day who have endured profound hardship, but who still take pride in casting a ballot. SB 293 is a punch in the gut to that hard-earned joy, to the freedom we hold dear.

We are not asking for special treatment. We are simply asking not to be silenced. If we genuinely believe in a representative government, one that reflects *all* of Ohio, then we must preserve fair and accessible voting. Eliminating this modest mail-in buffer isn't about improving elections, it's about shutting people out.

What makes SB 293 even more troubling is that it's part of a broader, alarming trend: not long ago, Ohio passed laws tightening voter ID and restricting mail-in ballot drop boxes. At the federal level, the U.S. House passed the **SAVE Act**, which would force Americans to present documentary proof of citizenship like a passport or birth certificate just to register to vote. If we keep allowing bills like these to pass, I fear what freedoms will be left for my kids and for their kids.

If our democracy is to remain truly representative, we must not cut off these pathways to the ballot. **SB 293 is not a safeguard** — it's a step toward silencing already under-resourced and marginalized voters. I refuse to stand by while that happens and with this, I ask you to consider my testimony, respect Ohio Voters, and **vote NO** on this injudicious bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

S.C. Doran, LISWS
Lucas County, Ohio