

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 293.

As a deeply concerned Ohioan, I am outraged by yet another attempt to make it harder for eligible voters to have their voices heard. SB 293 would eliminate Ohio's 4-day acceptance window for absentee ballots that are mailed on time and postmarked by the day before Election Day. This bill serves no legitimate purpose other than to silence voters.

Let me be clear: this proposal would not make our elections more secure—it would make them less fair. Ohio already has strong safeguards in place, including signature matching, ballot tracking, and bipartisan oversight of our boards of elections. The only thing SB 293 would do is punish voters—especially those who rely on absentee voting because of age, disability, work schedules, or rural mail service delays.

According to the Ohio Secretary of State's own data, nearly 10,000 valid votes were received and counted during the four days following Election Day in 2024. Eliminating this acceptance period would mean thousands of Ohioans—people who did everything right—would see their votes thrown out simply because of postal delays beyond their control. That is unacceptable in a democracy.

I want to address my comments especially to Senator Roegner. You represent communities like mine—communities that believe in fairness, accountability, and the right of every eligible citizen to have their ballot counted. Supporting legislation that knowingly discards valid votes is a betrayal of those values. The people of Ohio deserve leaders who strengthen democracy, not those who chip away at it for political gain.

Every valid vote should be counted. Every voice should matter. SB 293 is unnecessary, harmful, and disrespectful to the voters you were elected to serve. I urge you, Senator Roegner, and every member of this committee to reject this dangerous bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Rose
Kent, Ohio