

Chairman Kristina Roegner, Vice Chair Theresa Gavarone, Ranking Member Willis Blackshear, Jr., and esteemed members of the Senate General Government Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in writing. My name is Kathleen Woolner. I am the daughter of a career Navy officer. I strongly urge you to reject SB 293, which would eliminate Ohio's 4-day acceptance window for absentee ballots that were mailed on time and postmarked by the day before Election Day.

Earlier my Navy family was stationed on Guam for two years and previously my father served aboard a ship for 6-months. Mail-in-voting was critical to allow us to cast our votes during those times. Mail to/from Guam, Italy and our own domestic Postal Service is beyond the control of voters. My family served this country for 27 years and other Ohioans deserve to have their vote respected. Voting is a lifeline to home for distant service members.

Eliminating the ballot acceptance window would cause thousands of our military, senior citizens, disabled citizens, and rural citizens to not have their ballot counted through no fault of their own. Ohio's Secretary of State repeatedly reports overwhelming security for our elections that already exist. The current 4-day mail delivery window is reasonable and needed for the number of Ohioans that rely on the mail. SB 293 is not needed in Ohio.

Again, I oppose SB 293. Please do not allow SB 293 to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our communities.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Woolner
Westlake, OH