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November 4, 2025

Greetings,

I write to oppose SB 293. It would weaken our voting system and disenfranchise citizens needlessly. It would be harmful in at least the following ways:

- **This bill throws 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.
- **SB 293 especially harms:**
 - **Rural Ohio voters:** slower mail routes and reduced postal service days mean longer delivery times
 - **Ohio seniors and Ohioans with disabilities:** Voting by mail is often the only option for these voters
 - **Ohio voters without reliable transportation:** Ohioans living in poverty and students who often don't have their own vehicles would be disproportionately impacted
- **Ohio's current system works well:** Ohio election law already requires mail-in ballots to be postmarked on the day before Election Day. The existing 4-day acceptance period doesn't extend the time Ohio voters can cast a ballot, it's simply a mail delivery window to ensure ballots from eligible voters are counted.
- **Ohioans trust their mailed ballots will be counted:** Of the more than 2.6M Ohioans who voted before Election Day last November, 803,253 (31%) voters placed their trust in the US Postal Service as their preferred method of ballot return (source: Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard).

Thank you for your time and attention. Please vote against this bill.

God's Peace,



Rev. Dr. Jason Emerson+